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MEETING OF THE FLORIDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

NOVEMBER 24, 1992
1:00 P.M. - 5:20 P.M.

METRO-DADE GOVERNMENT CENTER
18TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
111 NORTHWEST FIRST STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128

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PRESENT:

BOBBY D. DOCTOR
Regional Director

STAFF MEMBERS:

JUNE LITTLER

HARRIET P. BROWN

BRADFORD BROWN

ALICIA BARO

KEN CLARKSTON

1 Thereupon:

2 The following proceedings were held:

3 MR. BROWN: I want to welcome the people
4 who are here this afternoon.

5 Those of you who managed to find us we
6 appreciate you coming.

7 This is a meeting of the Florida
8 Advisory Committee of the United States
9 Commission on Civil Rights.

10 My name is Brad Brown and I chair the
11 committee.

12 We consist of citizen volunteers that
13 are appointed by the Commission to advise the
14 Commission on the status of civil rights in
15 the various states and to make recommendations
16 and to lobby and to urge and to agitate for
17 those actions that we think should be done to
18 address the situations that we see, with
19 regard to civil rights in the various states.

20 We have been conducting a year-long
21 study on racial tensions in Florida.

22 This is parallel to the national study
23 on racial tensions in Florida.

1 Our plans for the Commission is to hold
2 a major hearing in Miami early next calendar
3 year.

4 Am I right on that schedule still?

5 MR. DOCTOR: Probably later.

6 MR. BROWN: This is the same as they are
7 holding in Washington, D.C. and Chicago and in
8 other areas.

9 MR. DOCTOR: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry,
10 you met the Committee.

11 MR. BROWN: The Commission.

12 We have been dovetailing with our own
13 specific study.

14 We have been meeting in selected cities
15 throughout the State of Florida and we expect
16 to meet in other cities before we complete
17 this.

18 We expect to meet probably in Saint
19 Petersburg early next year and then to
20 complete our series we expect to have a formal
21 major public hearing in Tallahassee looking at
22 statewide issues and pulling together all the
23 information we have gathered from the various

1 cities we have visited.

2 We have been in Jacksonville.

3 We have been in Gainesville.

4 We are here today in Miami.

5 We are actually coming back to Miami
6 because even though we have been here earlier
7 there have been a number of events in Miami,
8 one of them being Andrew, of course, and
9 another being the tragic death of an Asian
10 American in a racial violent situation in our
11 South Florida community.

12 Well, actually it is the second in a
13 rather short period of time.

14 In the Puerto Rican community there are
15 a series of these activities that have and
16 people have asked us to come back together to
17 gather some additional information from the
18 Miami area.

19 While we are looking at this series of
20 information on a year-long basis we will have
21 follow-up after we have our final report.

22 We also feel that when we have immediate
23 areas that are brought to our attention we

1 attempt to address and raise some of these
2 issues prior to waiting for the end of the
3 hearings.

4 We don't wait till the end of the
5 series, particularly right now when we may
6 have an opportunity to raise some issues with
7 the Commission.

8 The Commission now begins to adjust to
9 the new incoming administration so it is a
10 rather opportune time that we are here this
11 afternoon.

12 I would like to have, first, my fellow
13 committee members introduce themselves.

14 Then I will introduce our Regional
15 Director and let him say a few words.

16 MS. LITTLER: My name is June Littler.
17 I am from Gainesville.

18 MS. BROWN: My name is Harriet Brown.
19 I am from Orlando.

20 MR. CLARKSTON: Ted Clarkston. Miami.

21 MS. BARO: Alicia Baro, from Miami.

22 MR. BROWN: This is the Regional
23 Director from the Southern Regional Office,

1 staff member for the Commission, from Atlanta.

2 Thank you, Mr. Doctor.

3 MR. DOCTOR: I am pleased to be here.

4 As the chairman has indicated, the
5 Commission is much concerned about the
6 question of racial tension throughout America.

7 We commend the members of the Florida
8 Advisory Committee for selecting the top of
9 racial tensions in Florida to concentrate on
10 for what amounts to about a year, year and a
11 half.

12 Clearly you, too, think that racial
13 tensions are on the increase, which is why you
14 have adopted this project.

15 In addition to that, as the Chair has
16 already indicated, we try to be as relevant as
17 we possibly can be.

18 We obviously, as my civil rights cohorts
19 would indicate, we always try to be on the
20 case, as much as possible, anyway.

21 The idea behind coming to Miami, at this
22 particular point, is to look at not only
23 continuing questions relating to racial

1 tensions but also what is going on in the
2 Greater Miami area in the aftermath of
3 Hurricane Andrew.

4 We are particularly concerned about the
5 extent to which there is equity, the extent to
6 which opportunities are made across the board,
7 irrespective of race and sex and national
8 origin and so on and so forth.

9 Insofar as the fruits and the businesses
10 are concerned, to try and address some of the
11 problems that have been brought about by
12 Hurricane Andrew.

13 With that being said, Mr. Chairman,
14 again, I commend the committee for this
15 particular activity.

16 It is clearly needed.

17 I would like to think that the
18 participants, and I am sure they will, are
19 going to come forth and share with us in a
20 very forthright and aggressive fashion some of
21 the concerns they have on the subjects we have
22 mentioned.

23 MR. BROWN: I would like to ask, first,

[local branch]

1 Ms. Johnnie McMillian, President of the NAACP,
2 and also in charge of the national and state
3 and local NAACP office dealing with the local
4 Hurricane Andrew efforts, to please speak.

5 MS. McMILLIAN: Good afternoon.

6 We are very happy to have you here in
7 Miami.

8 I want to say, on behalf of the Miami-
9 Dade branch, as well as the NAACP at large, we
10 welcome the opportunity to present before you,
11 as an advisory committee.

12 I must, first of all, I want to say,
13 again, welcome to Bobby Doctor.

14 We are so happy to have you here. We
15 are always happy to see you.

16 We only wish that you didn't have to
17 come under duress each time.

18 I would like to be able to address you
19 under other kinds of circumstances.

20 Unfortunately I guess that is the nature
21 of what you are involved in.

22 We certainly wish we could have seen you
23 here much earlier.

1 I want you to know why I am saying that,
2 because of your very important role in
3 certainly listening at the local levels
4 through the State of Florida as to what is
5 going on, regarding inequities giving rise to
6 racial tensions here in Miami, in the
7 aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

8 I know that you have received and read
9 very much about what is really happening in
10 the aftermath, as well as what is hoped to be
11 gained in the next five to ten years, as we
12 attempt to heal as a community and to rebuild
13 as a community.

14 In answer to the call of the whole
15 aftermath issue, on August 30th the NAACP, in
16 conjunction and cooperation with Dade County
17 Public Schools, stepped out to organize and
18 hopefully open a very effective office in the
19 FEMA building.

20 *field representative* We had tremendous assistance from the
21 United States Department of Justice in the *[USDOJ]*
22 *[office of the Community Relations Service, USDOJ]*
23 form of Tom Battles, in helping us to achieve
[Regional Director, Community Relations Service, USDOJ]
that office, along with Mr. Ozell Sutton and

1 Mr. William Lucas.

2 We are very grateful to them for
3 allowing that opportunity for our community as
4 we looked at this community and we tried to
5 determine where the gaps were.

6 The first gap that we found in the
7 aftermath, and I want you to know that we hit
8 the ground running, immediately, within hours
9 after the hurricane passed over.

10 We went down to make an assessment in
11 the south areas, as to what kind of damages
12 were sustained and where the needs were.

13 Of course, you know the initial needs
14 were that of food, water and shelter.

15 We proceeded, as an organization, to
16 provide that to as many places as we could and
17 ensure that agencies that were responsible for
18 providing that did so.

19 The first agency that we worked with was
20 Red Cross. The American Red Cross.

21 We tried very hard to communicate.

22 We met with the American Red Cross
23 ongoingly.

1 We tried to indicate to them that we
2 recognize that there were two organizations
3 that had signed on with them, nationally, to
4 work with them.

5 One of them was the NAACP and the other
6 was AME Church.

7 Our role with them was to try to help
8 them find volunteers, more specifically, those
9 persons from the black community who would
10 give more of a presence in their disaster
11 centers and in their overall volunteer effort.

12 We did that and we felt that we were
13 very successful in providing that kind of
14 support.

15 Of course, you know that the damages
16 were very extensive.

17 It would have required far more people
18 than any of us would ever have hoped to have
19 available to them.

20 We did make what we thought were very
21 credible recommendations to them, based on
22 what we were seeing.

23 We asked, specifically, that they would

1 put centers in the black community.

2 Of course, they told us, at that time,
3 their initial response was "Well, we are doing
4 the best we can."

5 They said, "We, based on our assessment,
6 we are finding that we are putting the centers
7 where we think they will best be needed."

8 Well, when the centers ^[were placed] came north we
9 complained about the fact that many of the
10 people from the south, I am talking ^[were disadvantaged]
11 specifically about the black community, ✓

12 although all other communities certainly would
13 be applicable in many instances, but in the
14 black community many blacks moved north.

15 To give you a framework about what I am
16 talking, when you look at the overall number
17 of persons that were identified as homeless,
18 as a result of Hurricane Andrew, there were
19 250,000 people, approximately, that were
20 homeless.

21 Out of that 250,000, 150,000 were black.

22 That gives you an idea of the number of
23 people that were displaced as a result of the

1 hurricane.

2 We indicated to the American Red Cross
3 that we thought that that number, and just for
4 the sheer devastation of it all, that there
5 need to be some centers in our north area.

6 Well, the Red Cross indicated they just
7 couldn't find the need in our community.

8 So what they did was they did two
9 things.

10 They set up a disaster center just
11 northeast of the black community and just
12 northwest of the black community, which meant
13 it just surrounded the black community.

14 Well, we just really were concerned, and
15 voiced it publicly.

16 As a result, eventually they closed
17 those two centers.

18 They did put one center in the Haitian
19 American community.

20 Shortly thereafter that, too, was
21 closed.

22 There never was access for the overall
23 black community to get resources from the

1 American Red Cross.

2 Many of our persons suffered severely by
3 not having an opportunity to get hold of these
4 resources.

5 The next set of resources that we looked
6 at, and of course we are dealing with those
7 agencies who had the responsibility from the
8 United States government, after Miami was
9 declared a disaster area, to give assistance
10 to the community in the face of that disaster.

11 We had to deal with FEMA.

*Federal Emergency Management
Administration*

12 Of course, FEMA is a place that did
13 afford the opportunity for the NAACP to be in
14 its office.

15 FEMA had disaster centers.

16 Disaster centers were never placed, by
17 FEMA, in the overall black community, in the
18 north area.

19 They subsequently put some minor
20 centers, not minor, I should say smaller
21 centers in the south black areas.

22 The problem with the disaster centers
23 was many fold.

1 There was one problem because of the
2 lack of accessibility for the people.

3 Many blacks were unable to get FEMA's
4 assistance in a timely fashion.

5 Two, the assistance given to people in
6 helping them to complete their forms, in a
7 timely manner, was not given.

8 More particularly, we found that the
9 elderly and the handicapped were not getting
10 the assistance to the point that we formed,
11 the NAACP formed a committee of medical
12 persons, who volunteered to work with us to do
13 assessments and to provide direct assistance.

14 It is as a result of not having the
15 direct services.

16 Through the NAACP office I spearheaded
17 an effort to talk with the medical services
18 within the FEMA operation.

19 I found out that the State of Florida
20 was moving in immediately and what happens in
21 the disaster, when a disaster occurs is that
22 FEMA only comes in for a short term.

23 Then the state takes over.

1 Then you look for counties taking over.
2 When you would go in to talk to one
3 person you would discover you had to go talk
4 to the other agency because they were not in
5 charge.

6 You began to find yourself running
7 around chasing your tail to try to discover
8 how to get assistance for the people who are
9 crying.

10 To give you a framework for the office
11 for which I work and coordinate the efforts,
12 since August 30th, as I stand here today, we
13 have processed over 1,300 calls.

14 We are presently working with 400
15 families in trying to continue to provide
16 ongoing resources to them, trying to connect
17 them with the right agencies.

18 We are trying to be sure that the kind
19 of resources they need, to assist in the
20 rebuilding effort, does occur.

21 So we found that even within FEMA, and
22 trying to work with who was responsible, the
23 State of Florida, or the county, and trying to

1 find the one responsible for a particular
2 problem, we just ran into all kinds of
3 concerns. ^{← [problems]}

4 You need to be aware that that whole
5 process is out of kilter.

6 We certainly hope there will not be
7 another disaster in this country of this
8 magnitude.

9 We know that we have had many other
10 disasters, since Hurricane Andrew, throughout
11 the country, and all of them have been very,
12 very devastating to a particular community.

13 We certainly hope that no community, of
14 this size, as Miami, has to undergo this kind
15 of problem in trying to find its way back as
16 we have had to.

17 In addition to the difficulty with that,
18 there has been, and is documented, a
19 discrepancy being made with the black
20 community as it relates to the contracts and
21 the availability of those persons, in this
22 community, to participate in the rebuilding
23 process.

1 The initial contracts that were given
2 out, by the Army Corps of Engineers, which
3 was, given to them by FEMA, you will find
4 documented in newspapers and perhaps you are
5 already aware that the six companies that
6 received those contracts, out of those none of
7 them were African or black or participants in
8 the overall community.

9 That was for the first set of contracts.

10 We recognize that subsequent contracts,
11 obviously, are being given, but none of the
12 prime ones are being given, at this point, to
13 our best knowledge, to members of the local
14 black community.

15 When prime contracts are given out they
16 have been given out to some blacks, to our
17 best knowledge, but they have not been from
18 the local community.

19 This, certainly, is something that you
20 start looking at equitably.

21 It ought to be seriously looked at,
22 certainly with the community, with an
23 unemployment rate as high as this one and with

1 all of the devastation, the resources ought to
2 be spread out to the extent that local people
3 can begin to take part in this particular
4 process and should be having that assistance.

5 Additionally to the fact of recognizing
6 the contracts, I want to also bring up the
7 medical accessibility.

8 As I speak to you now, I just left the
9 south area, again.

10 I try to make sure I am down there a
11 minimum of once or twice a week.

12 We don't find equitability in services
13 available for the elderly.

14 We find, as I speak to you, that many
15 persons need assistance in helping to fill out
16 their SBA loans, as well as other forms.

17 Access to their agencies as to what to
18 do in order to get help in the rebuilding of
19 their homes is very important.

20 Some of the persons we are visiting
21 still have homes that are waterlogged.

22 Their things are soggy wet.

23 No agency has gone to assist them.

1 By them being elderly and sickly they
2 don't have the assistance.

3 ♦ ♦ We still see a locked out and
4 disenfranchisement of the black community, in
5 terms of all-over assistance in the area of
6 medical as well as the other areas that I have
7 previously listed.

8 ♦ The list goes on.

9 I know I don't have an unlimited amount
10 of time.

11 ♦ ♦ ♦ The main position that I would like to
12 present to you is that in every area that has
13 been impacted, by the Hurricane Andrew, the
14 black community certainly sits at the bottom
15 of having accessibility to what is available
16 to help to rebuild.

17 Of course, housing is at an all-time
18 premium.

19 Blacks have been very unsuccessful,
20 overall, those who already were living at the
21 bottom, and finding some place to go.

22 ♦ ♦ ♦ Many of them are living under
23 conditions, as we speak, that are certainly

1 below the standards of what any human being
2 ought to be living in in your country and
3 certainly in our own community.

4 I will be happy to entertain any
5 questions, if you have them, Mr. Chair, on the
6 aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

7 I do have a report, specifically for
8 you, that is written for you to review and to
9 kind of update you.

10 It goes to October 2nd.

11 We are presently working on one that
12 will bring us up to the present date.

13 The numbers just expand from what we
14 originally found.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

16 MS. LITTLER: I do have a question.

17 When you were talking about the Red
18 Cross centers, that were eventually closed,
19 what was in the centers or what kind of
20 services did they provide?

21 MS. McMILLIAN: The original services
22 were to provide---

23 MR. BROWN: They gave you a number.

1 MS. McMILLIAN: They gave you a number.
2 That was the original resource.

3 They were sometimes two and three months
4 after the date that you asked them for it.

5 For some people originally I think what
6 happened with the American Red Cross the first
7 couple of weeks they were particularly
8 overwhelmed.

9 They started giving out money.

10 People that got there first they would
11 give them.

12 They were supposed to give temporary
13 houses, monies for food or vouchers for food,
14 whichever was appropriate for you.

15 Most of the time vouchers were given on
16 clothing.

17 Some people, people who went to a
18 particular center, if you got first in line,
19 and that wasn't often because the lines used
20 to extend over until 10:00 or 11:00 o'clock at
21 night until they closed the centers at 2:00 or
22 3:00 some lines would be left.

23 Originally, to answer your question more

1 specifically, temporary housing, food and
2 shelter vouchers for food and clothing were
3 given.

4 MR. BROWN: They would give you a
5 number.

6 You would have an appointment to come
7 back maybe two or three weeks later, to come
8 back and get your clothes.

9 MS. McMILLIAN: Months later.

10 MR. BROWN: They would give you clothing
11 vouchers.

12 They would give you a number.

13 He would come back later.

14 MS. LITTLER: That was closer in?

15 There wasn't everything down there?

16 MS. McMILLIAN: The problem is, and I'm
17 glad you brought that to my attention so I can
18 clarify that.

19 The problem that the NAACP found, they
20 had the centers in the south.

21 However, the areas that would be
22 predominantly lived in by blacks, in those
23 areas there were no centers.

1 Those people had to move to the area
2 where the centers were, which was outside of
3 the area.

4 For example, if you look where the
5 blacks live, such as Richmond Heights, the
6 West Perrine area, Goulds, Modello, Florida
7 City, Homestead, the centers were outside of
8 their particular domain.

9 They had to travel. That was a problem
10 for many of them.

11 Coupled with that, many of them were
12 moving or being displaced to the north because
13 their homes were completely not habitable for
14 them.

15 So when they moved north they had no
16 transportation to get south to a center.

17 So we tried to get them to bring the
18 centers up here or at least have some outreach
19 centers up here, available.

20 That is where we ran into problems.

21 They refused to do it. They never did
22 do that.

23 MS. BROWN: You mention you are still

1 working with 400 families.

2 MS. McMILLIAN: Yes.

3 MS. BROWN: Is that solely the NAACP or
4 someone else who is assisting?

5 MS. McMILLIAN: Yes, the NAACP.

6 MS. BROWN: What kind of services are
7 you giving them?

8 MS. McMILLIAN: Daily services.

9 For example, we have, down at Homestead,
10 Florida City, the school system has allowed us
11 to sustain two classrooms, down at Neva King
12 Cooper Elementary.

13 We have someone working there, Reverend
14 Walker, who on a daily basis gets food from
15 Daily Bread and all of the places he can find
16 it for people to come to.

17 Many people still don't have electricity
18 and don't have resources to cook food or to
19 store food.

20 So they have to come on a daily basis
21 for their food.

22 Of course, he also gets clothing and he
23 works with those families.

1 On the telephone, in the FEMA office, we
2 have, and work with on a minimum per day 15 to
3 20 families, which, in all they add up to
4 maybe more than 400.

5 What we do with these families is to
6 talk them through the process, on a daily
7 basis, and believe me it is daily, because
8 what happens is we send them to the agency and
9 that agency gives them a response they don't
10 understand or a response that may not
11 necessarily be accurate or a response that
12 indicates they can't help them."

13 So we have to work with them and
14 continue to send them places until we can find
15 or they can find the kind of assistance that
16 they need.

17 The assistance needed is still clothing,
18 shelter and the very basics, along with
19 problems with the insurance companies.

20 A lot of problems with the insurance
21 companies.

22 Finding contractors, there are problems
23 with contractors.

1 I mean the list goes on, in terms of
2 their needs.

3 So one family can literally take up,
4 almost half a day, working with them.

5 When you talk to that family on a daily
6 basis you can see the time.

7 Our hours are from 8:00 in the morning
8 we are morning, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. at
9 night.

10 MS. BROWN: The school system has,
11 essentially, provided space for you to operate
12 in?

13 MS. McMILLIAN: For that particular
14 operation.

15 We have many operations going on within
16 the NAACP as operations for the aftermath.

17 That is only one.

18 That is our answer to the Florida City,
19 Homestead effort.

20 We also have others in other divisions.

21 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Johnnie, I would like to put
23 or pull a couple of things from the paper that

1 impressed me, that kind of addressed the
2 issues of racial tension.

3 I would like to ask you to kind of
4 comment on how you see it.

5 In the glow of Andrew everybody was
6 saying how everybody is equal because you
7 stand in the same line to get your water.

8 Since then we had one quote in the paper
9 from some leading figure in town which said
10 that if they didn't hurry up and rebuild South
11 Dade it would turn into the largest ghetto
12 south of Harlem.

13 Just recently we had a very angry
14 meeting in South Dade where they were
15 attempting to put trailers to house families,
16 which have a large number of African American
17 families nearby a housing development where
18 the houses probably averaged 100,000 plus.

19 Everybody said it wasn't racial but
20 their faces looked to be a lot like those we
21 saw in New Orleans in the '60s when the little
22 kids were going to school.

23 This is indicating that obviously you

1 to come, the people who were getting the
2 trailers, the lines were long in terms of
3 requests but, again, it was not the blacks who
4 got access to that, to that particular
5 temporary housing first.

6 So, there were, and quite frankly, in
7 many instances we heard that action had to be
8 taken on fist fights that were drawn between
9 various groups. Just continuous outbreak.

10 I am sure that the Department of Justice
11 can be more specific on exactly what took
12 place, regarding the racial tension in an
13 overt manner because it was in an overt manner
14 that many things did occur.

15 We found, we have found, the NAACP,
16 found, from our visits, as well as being
17 there, that there was a lot of pushing,
18 shoving and blacks just did not have equal
19 opportunity to water nor temporary housing,
20 specifically in terms of the trailers.

21 So that was very much in evidence.

22 MR. BROWN: In terms of actions, issues
23 that ought to be raised now, by the Civil

1 Rights Commission, as we speak to the
2 transition team coming in, in terms of what
3 the federal government ought to be addressing
4 itself to, in terms of equities, do you have
5 some particular advice that you would like to
6 give to us on this?

7 MS. McMILLIAN: Absolutely. Loads of
8 advice and loads of messages.

9 I will try to give it in a brief form.

10 The overall message, that I think needs
11 to be given to the transition team, is that
12 there is a need, as I stand here, for an
13 overall assessment to be made of exactly what
14 percentage of people are being moved toward
15 homes.

16 That is the first concern. Getting
17 people back into their homes.

18 To look at what percentage are in, what
19 percentage are not in and those that are in
20 what conditions are they going under.

21 There is a need for the transition team
22 to look at the State of Florida and the
23 problems that people are having with insurance

1 companies.

2 As you know, many of the insurance
3 companies went belly up.

4 People have been stuck with checks.

5 They don't know which way they are going
6 with it.

7 I think that that whole process needs to
8 be looked at because people really don't have
9 the resources to be able to pay for the
10 rebuilding of their homes.

11 The next thing, regarding the housing
12 situation, there needs to be an overall
13 assessment of how quickly contractors are able
14 or are having the ability to move.

15 I think one of the problems we are
16 running into is that only a few contractors
17 are getting contracts.

18 They are trying to take on more than
19 they can handle.

20 I think it is a grand mess out there.

21 Therefore, hundreds and thousands of
22 people are being left at the bottom.

23 As we speak many of them have not had an

1 opportunity to have anything addressed about
2 their homes.

3 MR. BROWN: Let me interrupt you with a
4 question.

5 Have you run into complaints--I am
6 talking about smaller black contractors, the
7 ones that are rebuilding, black contractors
8 who are rebuilding small houses--in terms of
9 difficulty in getting supplies compared to
10 other contractors?

11 MS. McMILLIAN: I have had complaints
12 from them, yes.

13 I really offered them a hot line.

14 We have not had an opportunity to
15 effectuate that.

16 We need a contractor's hot line.

17 They are having problems getting
18 resources for building.

19 As a matter of fact, yesterday someone
20 asked me about trying to see what we could do
21 about making building materials more
22 accessible because small contractors,
23 obviously, don't have the kind of resources,

1 of money, the amount of money up front, it is
2 going to take nor the ability to move it if
3 they had the opportunity. They need
4 assistance to do that.

5 Yes, we have had complaints.

6 MR. BROWN: Sorry to interrupt you.

7 MS. McMILLIAN: That is okay.

8 The complaints go on and on. I can give
9 it to you.

10 Certainly I think if the transition team
11 will take a look at assessing where we are
12 with it, because this devastation is so
13 massive, it will help.

14 You know it just doesn't compare to
15 anything, it being the fourth largest disaster
16 in the United States.

17 You can imagine the size and scope of
18 what we are dealing with here.

19 If it is not looked at we are going to
20 run a real risk of higher racial tensions.

21 I really don't know what we will be
22 discussing within the next few months because
23 people are very frustrated about the fact that

1 they are running into so many roadblocks in an
2 effort to try to get back into their homes.

3 That includes the Section 8 houses.

4 We have a whole list of people, pages of
5 people who either have not been able to get
6 back into the Section 8 homes or not temporary
7 housing or either temporary housing because
8 they weren't a Section 8 home.

9 That process is extremely, extremely
10 slow.

11 I would definitely think that the
12 transition team would want to take a look at
13 that process.

14 Of course, one is the housing issue.

15 Simultaneous to the housing issue I
16 would want them to look at the job
17 opportunities that are available for those
18 people who were displaced from their jobs as a
19 result of Hurricane Andrew.

20 We have gotten a lot of complaints from
21 those persons who have not been able to have
22 either their jobs restored or opportunities
23 for other jobs.

1 I think that that is a very big part of
2 allowing the community to heal and to rebuild.

3 So I would say, as a top priority, that
4 housing, job opportunities and health issues
5 and health concerns that have not been
6 addressed in the aftermath of Andrew, that
7 should be looked into.

8 We have an opportunity to re-heal and to
9 rebuild through the efforts of the overall, of
10 the government's focus and specifically this
11 committee because ultimately if your report is
12 one, and I know it will be comprehensive in
13 nature in terms of recommendations, it will
14 certainly offset the real possibility of
15 escalating racial tensions, which has an
16 opportunity, as we speak, to be inflamed,
17 based on the overall conditions.

18 MR. BROWN: Has anybody in the job area
19 of the new administration been touting
20 improvements in job training?

21 Have they begun at all to address the
22 needs of people to get jobs after Andrew is
23 over?

1 Right now there is a lot of relatively
2 low skill labor jobs that are abundant.

3 Those jobs are going to disappear and
4 people do not gain the skills that move them
5 into ongoing jobs.

6 Are you aware of any effort?

7 MS. McMILLIAN: I am meeting tomorrow
8 with PIC, private industry counsel, who is the
9 one who has received the contract to assist
10 with that.

11 I am also working with the committee on
12 the We Will Rebuild.

13 They are looking at it but I think their
14 efforts, I am not sure at this point that
15 their efforts are going to be comprehensive
16 enough.

17 I am really concerned about the overall
18 numbers.

19 So many times we start talking about
20 efforts that are being made.

21 When you are dealing with massive
22 numbers like we are doing you have got to give
23 the amount of resources and support that is

1 going to impact or you still just are talking
2 about the top ten percent being helped and
3 ninety percent not.

4 So I am not sure, at this point, that
5 the job training efforts or the job
6 opportunity efforts are massive enough to make
7 an impact.

8 MR. BROWN: Let me ask one more
9 question.

10 That is concerning the rebuilding of the
11 educational structure.

12 Since you know many of the schools in
13 South Dade that were most badly hit have a
14 large number of African American children in
15 them, and initially there was some optimism
16 that there might be an attempt to bring
17 schools up to some kind of standard, many of
18 these schools are very old and don't match
19 some of our newest schools, to begin with, but
20 lately we have been hearing that the federal
21 government is backing off on sending materials
22 and trailers to them.

23 They are saying, "We can't make the

1 school any better than it was before."

2 It seems to me if that is true that is
3 something that an education interested
4 administration, for a relative small amount of
5 small money increments could make significant
6 improvements in some of our schools.

7 MS. McMILLIAN: I was very disappointed
8 to find that out because we really thought if
9 anybody would want to be on top of this thing
10 it would have been the rebuilding of
11 educational institutions but there has been a
12 major retrenchment from that effort.

13 We are hoping the transition team will
14 take a look at that.

15 Originally there was a plan for those
16 schools to be placed in a Phoenix model.

17 My understanding is that that idea is
18 still fresh and available to be implemented by
19 the school district.

20 That model is going to require more
21 funding and provides an opportunity for the
22 full community to get involved in the
23 rebuilding of those schools.

1 I am hoping.

2 There is no way the school district can
3 even address that without additional resources
4 or certainly the replacement of the original
5 request and acceptance of original request by
6 the federal government to do that.

7 All of that falls under the issue, in my
8 mind, of FEMA making sure that it provides
9 equity in the rebuilding process in every one
10 of our institutions that need rebuilding,
11 inclusive of our homes.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

13 Is there anything else?

14 MR. DOCTOR: Ms. McMillian, how many
15 people would you say are affected directly by
16 Hurricane Andrew or have been affected by
17 Hurricane Andrew?

18 MS. McMILLIAN: Okay. Our assessment
19 originally looked at 250,000, as I said,
20 homeless, 150,000 being African American.

21 100,000 full-time jobs. 65,000 being
22 African American.

23 So, overall, we are looking at certainly

1 over 250,000 people that have been impacted.

2 That was a number that was accounted for
3 by our records, of being homeless.

4 MR. DOCTOR: Again, the number of blacks
5 in that?

6 MS. McMILLIAN: 150,000.

7 MR. DOCTOR: Well over half.

8 MS. McMILLIAN: That's right.

9 The full-time jobs that were impacted by
10 the hurricane were 100,000 and of that number
11 65,000 were blacks.

12 In terms of the homes that were leveled,
13 25,574 homes were leveled.

14 Eighteen thousand were black.

15 MR. DOCTOR: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you very much.

17 MS. McMILLIAN: You are welcome.

18 MR. BROWN: Before you sit down, I just
19 want to say, having been one of those houses
20 that got visited the second day after the
21 storm by a van from the NAACP, my personal
22 thanks.

23 MS. McMILLIAN: Thank you.

1 Would you come forward and introduce
2 yourself.

3 MS. NELSON: Eugenie Nelson.

4 Ms. Dorancy is out of town.

5 MR. BROWN: Could you give us your
6 address.

7 MS. NELSON: 119 Northeast 54th Street.
8 It is the Haitian Refugee Center.

9 Ms. McMillian has covered the whole
10 issue about the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

11 Many of our refugees, who have just come
12 from Guantanamo, have been victimized
13 especially when they don't know the United
14 States.

15 Most of them live in Florida City.

16 They do not know where to go and with
17 the language barrier it was very hard for
18 them.

19 Obviously, they are still suffering.

20 What I would like to stress more is
21 under the double standard of the INS,
22 regarding the Haitian refugees, I feel that
23 the Haitian refugees' rights have been

1 violated.

2 The INS, while releasing most of the
3 other refugees here, giving them political
4 asylum, they are returning the Haitian
5 refugees to the repression.

6 Right now they are facing a lot of
7 repression in Haiti.

8 Just yesterday we had 66 Haitians who
9 arrived here and we just learned instead of
10 releasing them to their relatives here they
11 are sending them to Texas because they claim
12 that the Krome Detention Center is
13 overcrowded.

14 They have mothers, fathers, brothers and
15 sisters here.

16 They were all calling the center this
17 morning.

18 They are willing to take their
19 relatives.

20 They sent them to the criminals in
21 Texas.

22 So this is big discrimination against
23 the Haitian refugees.

1 MR. BROWN: Where, in Texas, are they
2 sending them?

3 MS. NELSON: The island Port Isabel.
4 Last week they were a group of 25 who
5 arrived, also.

6 They sent them to Texas.

7 Three of them called us at the center to
8 say that they were asking them to send them
9 back to Miami where they can get legal
10 representation.

11 Because the Haitian Refugee Center is in
12 Miami.

13 Three of them, because they were
14 speaking for their rights, saying, "Yes, we
15 want to go back to Miami," they put them in a
16 criminal jail with the criminal inmates where
17 they don't speak English.

18 It is very hard, the way I understand.

19 MR. BROWN: Are those criminal
20 facilities in Texas, that they placed them in?

21 MS. NELSON: They don't have a---

22 MR. BROWN: They don't have an INS
23 holding facility.

1 MS. NELSON: They have the Krome
2 Detention Center in Miami, which is very hard
3 for them also, when they keep them for over a
4 year.

5 They don't send them back right now
6 because after a year they return them to
7 Haiti, which is bad, also.

8 At least they know they can talk to
9 their relatives here when they are in Miami
10 and their relatives can go visit them.

11 When they are in Texas we can't help
12 them and their relatives cannot communicate
13 with them.

14 MR. DOCTOR: How do you spell your name?

15 THE WITNESS: Nelson, N-e-l-s-o-n.

16 MR. DOCTOR: Maybe I should ask your
17 first name.

18 MS. NELSON: Eugenie, E-u-g-e-n-i-e.

19 MR. DOCTOR: Very good. Thank you.

20 MR. BROWN: Are there any questions?

21 MS. BROWN: When you said the groups are
22 arriving here, where are they arriving from?
23 Is this Guantanamo?

1 MS. NELSON: No.

2 Well, the ones from Guantanamo, they, I
3 think they are going right now. The camp is
4 empty.

5 Maybe there are a few there.

6 Yesterday, the group that came, they
7 came directly from Haiti and they were
8 yesterday, when we were, when the attorney,
9 went to the hotel they were at, at the Hyatt
10 Regency Hotel, this morning what we learned is
11 they said 50 of them had been sent to Texas
12 and 12 were probably going to Krome.

13 What they do now, they---

14 After the hurricane there were, I think,
15 detention for the criminals that were, they
16 sent those criminals to Krome where they kept
17 the Haitians, not only Haitians, Cubans or
18 other refugees.

19 Now they don't have enough space for the
20 refugees that come in here on a political
21 basis for whatever.

22 MR. BROWN: Did any of the recent
23 arrivals, or the ones that came yesterday,

1 were they allowed to see any legal counsel
2 before being moved?

3 MS. NELSON: No.

4 They did not allow us to go.

5 We have other attorneys that called us
6 and we have the same problem.

7 They did not even allow them to go by
8 the hotel and see them.

9 MS. BARO: Are those the ones that were
10 brought in?

11 MS. NELSON: Yes.

12 MS. BARO: The ones that paid five and
13 six and seven hundred dollars to come in and
14 who was it that was--there was a captain?

15 MS. NELSON: Since we did not talk to
16 them I don't know whether they paid or not.
17 We didn't know.

18 MS. BARO: They were in cramped
19 headquarters.

20 They discovered them like sardines in
21 these little cramped headquarters. They
22 discovered them.

23 Were they taken to Texas?

1 MS. NELSON: Yes. That is what we
2 learned this morning.

3 Fifty of them were taken to Texas.

4 Two weeks ago there were 25. They sent
5 them, all of them to Texas.

6 MR. BROWN: Neither group had the
7 opportunity to talk to legal counsel?

8 MS. NELSON: To anybody.

9 Especially, they have mothers, fathers,
10 who are permanent residents here.

11 They do not even allow them to call
12 their relatives.

13 MR. BROWN: Are there any questions?

14 MR. DOCTOR: I have a couple of
15 questions.

16 Have you noticed a discernible
17 difference in the manner in which Haitians,
18 who have been affected by Hurricane Andrew, in
19 terms of how they have been affected?

20 Is there a discernible difference, in
21 your mind, your opinion or your observations,
22 as to whether or not Haitians have been
23 treated differently, in terms of provisions,

1 of services, home referrals, contracting
2 situations and so on and so forth?

3 MS. NELSON: Yes. They were treated
4 differently, especially when they go to
5 someone who did not understand how to deal
6 with them.

7 MR. DOCTOR: What percentage of the
8 overall number of persons affected by the
9 hurricane, would you say, are Haitians?

10 MS. NELSON: I don't have an exact
11 figure but I would say the majority were in
12 Florida City, because I would say the larger
13 group of people, that came from Guantanamo,
14 which is about 5,000 people, they were all
15 located there.

16 Their relatives live in Florida City.
17 When they went there, their homes were
18 destroyed.

19 They just arrived there and they didn't
20 have any place to live and now their home was
21 destroyed.

22 It was a large amount.

23 MR. BROWN: I think I don't want to

1 confuse people with this, when we talk about
2 affected.

3 Damage has been so immense here, when
4 people talk about affected, people talk about
5 people whose houses are destroyed or almost
6 destroyed.

7 Somebody who had significant damage to
8 their home doesn't even talk about having
9 hurricane damage because compared to people
10 whose home is flattened it doesn't seem like a
11 lot.

12 If it were more of an ordinary hurricane
13 everybody would be talking about that damage
14 as being significant.

15 There were many areas, in the northeast,
16 some particular pockets were without
17 electricity for a very long period of time.

18 People had some great difficulty
19 obtaining food and water and basic assistance
20 for several weeks after that, even though it
21 was not as massive.

22 Every pole wasn't down for miles.

23 Nevertheless, there were severe impacts

1 on a lot of the communities, including where
2 many of the people, Haitian community, lives
3 here. They did suffer significantly in the
4 early days.

5 MS. NELSON: It is also not knowing
6 where to go for the food.

7 We had to go tell them to go to some
8 parts in the church, to direct them in the
9 church where to go to get food.

10 They were standing there with no lights
11 and not knowing what to do.

12 MR. DOCTOR: That is the point I am
13 trying to raise.

14 I am trying to get to this.

15 We would like to raise questions with
16 the Red Cross and FEMA and some of the other
17 service-providing agencies, to get some
18 determination as to what percentage, as to
19 percentage, what persons received relief from
20 those organizations, and match it up against
21 those persons who have been affected.

22 MS. NELSON: Some people probably got
23 excess but some had difficulties with filling

1 out the forms.

2 I think up to now we have people calling
3 us about where to go to fill out or so they
4 can have someone fill out the form for them.

5 When they go to FEMA they don't--they
6 may have a Haitian but probably just to give
7 them the form.

8 They do not have someone to sit down and
9 help them fill out the form.

10 Because most of them cannot read or
11 write you need someone to go over it with
12 them.

13 They have a lot of difficulties as to
14 getting some help.

15 MR. DOCTOR: They all are required to
16 keep records, which points out the numbers of
17 persons who have been served by those
18 agencies.

19 That is the point.

20 MR. BROWN: Johnnie alluded to the
21 point, earlier.

22 One of the problems we had in the
23 northern area, that area, I think, even more

1 disproportionately was affected, particularly
2 the low income communities.

3 The area wasn't as bad so if you had
4 some resources you could begin to deal with
5 it.

6 If you didn't have transportation and
7 you didn't have any power then people are
8 literally hungry in this area and they were
9 not considered as being hit by the hurricane,
10 not to mention the situations in the tent
11 cities and others further south.

12 There were some really severe problems
13 of people affected in the low income
14 communities in the northern half of Dade
15 County.

16 Some of the disparities were greatest
17 here because there at least in some cases in
18 the south you had a water line.

19 Everybody lined up to get their water.

20 Even in Little Haiti some people spent
21 two weeks without light.

22 They didn't know what to do.

23 The word was only the south was hit by

1 the hurricane so they just stood there and
2 they didn't do anything.

3 They stood there and they believed they
4 were only helping the south.

5 MS. McMILLIAN: To help her out, I have
6 a report I was going to give.

7 I should have brought it up.

8 This particular study was done by the
9 Center for Haitian Studies and it was
10 conducted the first week so the numbers that
11 you see certainly shifted after the first week
12 to increase, not to decrease.

13 Looking at it they had about a thousand
14 homes in the Homestead, Florida City area.

15 They indicated, at that time, they had
16 assessed 200 that had been, 200 homes that had
17 been completed destroyed and 1,500 persons
18 were involved at that time, just in the
19 Homestead, Florida City area, not to include
20 all of South Dade.

21 So I think that the study may be
22 interesting and might answer some of your
23 questions, if you would like to have a copy of

1 this.

2 The first part of this packet deals with
3 the percentage of blacks living in each of the
4 areas that were impacted by the hurricane.

5 So I wanted to give you that.

6 The Haitian study is separate.

7 There is a whole study strictly as to
8 the Haitian community.

9 This one was another one. I wanted to
10 help you with that.

11 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

12 Do you have any other questions?

13 MR. DOCTOR: A bit off the subject, if I
14 may.

15 I am trying to do two things here at the
16 same time. Jean Juste Gerard is an old friend
17 of mine and a former director of the Haitian
18 Center.

19 Please don't reveal anything at all
20 about where he is--

21 MS. NELSON: I don't know.

22 MR. DOCTOR: --because I understand his
23 life has been threatened any number of times,

1 but is he all right?

2 MS. NELSON: Yes. He is okay.

3 MR. DOCTOR: If that be the case, would
4 you please give him our regards.

5 MS. NELSON: Yes, I will.

6 I have somebody here.

7 MR. FLORVIL: Good evening.

8 MR. BROWN: Your name, please?

9 MR. FLORVIL: Samedi, S-a-m-e-d-i,
10 Florvil, F-l-o-r-v-i-l. I am here just
11 because they are talking about civil rights.

12 I just know civil rights mean the rights
13 for all the living things.

14 I am working for the refugees in here
15 right in Homestead in my organization.

16 I am one of the chairmen of it.

17 . . . We have so many calls from the
18 affiliates there to say the way they treat
19 them.

20 So, yes, we be mistreated over here.

21 Like the problem is the one who are here
22 before tell the other one the way they have
23 been treated.

1 ♦ ♦ ♦ So if they are to get help they say they
2 get the help but for those people to go to get
3 the help they are always afraid.

4 So I found out a lot of them, they sleep
5 in the street even when they say they have the
6 trailer or whatever.

Excell assistance in aftermath of
Haitian
crisis

7 Those Haitians, they don't go because
8 they are afraid.

9 So even the ones who have to serve them.

10 The way they present us with a negative
11 image, like it is negative for them but
12 it is positive for us.

13 It is negative for them because we are
14 black but it is positive for us because we are
15 human beings.

16 The problems with the Haitian refugees
17 here, it doesn't mean they like to be
18 refugees.

19 They didn't born refugees.

20 If they are here it is because of the
21 United States government who drives us over
22 here.

23 So we ask the Army to assist, and for

1 Mr. Bill Clinton, who gets elected, our
2 message for Bill Clinton, who gets elected as
3 President, we would like him, we would like to
4 not to be, to receive 120,000 of us to come
5 over here.

6 The good thing we would like him to do
7 is to help us help the refugee, not especially
8 in Haiti but in the Caribbean and in the
9 Central America.

10 Help us to stay in our country by help
11 us get the freedom.

12 Help us get the security to feel safe to
13 stay in our country.

14 Because now the people talking about the
15 refugee coming over here because they are
16 hungry. Some are born hungry.

17 I am one of them who be victim from the
18 American government.

19 When I come over here, after they kill
20 my father, they kill my cousin who be living
21 with me.

22 They kill a friend of mine where we be
23 working together. He get killed.

1 I slipped away.

2 I come over here so right at the airport
3 they ask me.

4 I explain it.

5 They say, "Well, we know your situation.

6 "We are going to send you to sleep at a
7 hotel in Krome.

8 "Tomorrow morning they are going to let
9 you go."

10 Then tomorrow morning, after seventeen
11 months and nine days when I come over here.

12 I work in my country. I have my own
13 boss in my country. I work.

14 I didn't come here for free things. I
15 come for a system.

16 The message we got, we would like Mr.
17 Clinton to help us to have security in our
18 country, restore our government.

19 We would like him to help us live as
20 human beings and rebuild the country.

21 That is all we need.

22 For the refugees who have to come in I
23 think we have Mrs. Johnnie McMillian who have

1 been in the Bahamas to see the refugees who
2 have been in Haiti last week.

3 I would like her to tell you how the
4 thing is going there.

5 So anyone who could talk to Mr. Clinton
6 tell him for us, the Haitian refugees ask him
7 to help us restore our president and democracy
8 in our country and security where we could
9 live. That would solve the problem.

10 MR. DOCTOR: Mr. Florvil, could you
11 spell your last name, please.

12 MR. FLORVIL: S-a-m-e-d-i, Florvil,
13 F-l-o-r-v-i-l.

14 MR. DOCTOR: Your first name?

15 MR. FLORVIL: S-a-m-e-d-i.

16 MR. DOCTOR: What is the organization?

17 MR. FLORVIL: Veyeyo, V-e-y-e-y-o.

18 MR. DOCTOR: What does it mean?

19 Forgive my ignorance.

20 MR. FLORVIL: Veyeyo. That is the cross
21 reference.

22 We are the ones on the street. That is
23 watch our enemy.

1 MR. BROWN: It is the organization Jean
2 Juste founded when he turned the organization
3 over to the people.

4 Would you like to hear about the recent
5 meeting in Haiti that just went on?

6 MR. DOCTOR: Yes.

7 MS. McMILLIAN: Two meetings. One I
8 attended.

9 This was the CAMCO organization out of
10 the Caribbean Islands.

11 They gave a mission statement to the
12 Grand Bahama human rights organization to pull
13 together.

14 It was an opportunity for those human
15 rights and civil rights groups to take a look
16 at Haitian refugees and how they are being
17 treated in the Bahamas.

18 So I went over with Rolando Ronsey a few
19 weeks ago, into Grand Bahama.

20 I went to three places, Freeport, Grand
21 Providence and, of course, into March Island,
22 Abaco, to visit what we consider plantation-
23 like settings and camps to see how they were

1 treating Haitians.

2 In addition to visiting her Majesty's
3 prison.

4 It was the first time they allowed any
5 human rights group into the prison under the
6 new government.

7 Under the former government no human
8 rights groups were allowed on the soil of the
9 Bahamas.

10 It was a first.

11 I want you to know that that experience
12 was really very chilling.

13 You might already know the results were
14 as we expected to see it, that there is great
15 oppression going on in the Bahamas of our
16 Haitian brothers and sisters.

17 Many of the children are not allowed to
18 go to school until after the children are
19 enrolled who live in the Bahamas.

20 The percentage is growing.

21 Many of the persons who move from
22 Haiti---

23 There has been a migration to the

1 Bahamas for years, prior to now.

2 This is not just an exitus from Haiti
3 now.

4 The problems are massive.

5 They need---

6 We asked the government. We had an
7 opportunity to interact with the government,
8 the prime minister was sorry, he had to be out
9 of town.

10 He did send one of his ministers to work
11 with us.

12 We had an opportunity to make a
13 recommendation.

14 One of the things they plan to do is to
15 build in the Bahamas large detention centers.

16 We tried to tell them about our
17 experience with Krome.

18 We tried to convince them to find
19 another way.

20 Our voices were weak but the conditions
21 are very poor.

22 Rolando and I went to Haiti last week,
23 Port-au-Prince.

1 We attended an international conference
2 there on repression of Haitians.

3 Of course, from the time we got off the
4 plane we were definitely, our lives were
5 definitely not exactly safe.

6 We understood that when we went.

7 Needless to say there was international
8 press there so I think that perhaps saved us
9 more than anything else.

10 We had an opportunity to talk with
11 representatives from many Caribbean Islands,
12 to include Venezuela, Guadalupe, Martinique
13 and many, many other places. Mexico.

14 We had representation from Spain as well
15 as other places, countries throughout the
16 world that were there.

17 The purpose was to look at the
18 repression of Haitians, to have those in the
19 country who were standing up know that there
20 are many of us who understood the plight and
21 we were going to do all we could to come back
22 to our government to have them participate in
23 a solid way to try to help for a return of

1 Aristide.

2 That really is what is desired by those
3 who are there.

4 It is our understanding, since we left,
5 many of the persons who participated in the
6 conference with us have been arrested and many
7 of them have been brutalized.

8 We want you to know that the mission is
9 a very serious one.

10 Lives are being taken.

11 Yes, Father Jean Juste, at the time we
12 were there, seems safe.

13 We don't know. We understand that is a
14 day-to-day thing.

15 You never know, in Haiti, when you are
16 going to be next.

17 8:30 p.m. on the dot every night we were
18 there--I was there for four nights--the
19 gunshots start.

20 You never know when it is going to be
21 you next.

22 That is the climate in Port-au-Prince in
23 this time, as I speak.

1 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

2 I would want to move on.

3 Next I will ask Attorney Kee Eng, of the
4 Asian American Federation to speak.

5 Are there any other comments anyone
6 wants to make with reference to the impact of
7 the hurricane?

8 MR. ENG: We have a representative from
9 the Asian American Federation that would like
10 a couple of minutes to speak on that.

11 She is up from Homestead to speak on
12 that.

13 Unfortunately, she is not familiar with
14 Miami and they are on their way here.

15 So, before she gets here, I will speak.

16 First of all, on behalf of the Asian
17 American Federation, I would like to take the
18 opportunity to thank the community and the
19 Commission to allow the Asian American
20 Federation to present some issues that are
21 important for the Asian Americans.

22 Rather than monopolize the time of the
23 committee myself I have invited, with the

1 committee's permission, of course, various
2 members of the Asian American community, who
3 would like to speak on their particular
4 interest.

5 What I have done, I have taken the
6 presentation and divided it into five basic
7 areas and asked each of the people to take
8 five or ten minutes to give some of their
9 views as to the interest and activities that
10 have gone on in the last couple of years.

11 As a brief overview, the Asian American
12 Federation is relatively new in the civil
13 rights field.

14 We were originally founded in 1984, in
15 Broward County as a group of Asian Americans
16 who came together with common interests.

17 Quite honestly, in the last two years,
18 1991 and 1992 we have been thrust into an area
19 we were a bit unaccustomed to, that being
20 dealing with issues arising in our community,
21 dealing with civil rights and discrimination
22 and unfortunately, this year, hate crimes.

23 Just to give you an overview of what the

1 federation is, it is a coalition of 16 ethnic
2 Asian communities in Florida ranging all the
3 way from Asia Minor, in Turkey, all the way in
4 the Far East to the Filipino and Polynesian
5 continent and all countries in between.

6 It is a rather diverse ethnic group as
7 well as religious group.

8 We have Christians and Moslems and
9 Hindus.

10 It is a wide spectrum of interest.

11 It is always fascinating.

12 You never know where you are going to
13 meet from month to month, whether in a
14 Christian church, assembly hall, Hindu temple.

15 The foods are interesting.

16 We want to have communication among
17 ourselves and our various communities as well
18 as generate information for the public
19 consumption of South Florida.

20 We act as, hopefully, a vehicle to ease
21 maybe some of the misunderstandings,
22 misconceptions, about our various communities.

23 In this way we try to reach out and try

1 to make friends of everyone in South Florida.

2 Beyond that, as I indicated, this year
3 we have taken a much more proactive stance on
4 a lot of issues.

5 *[issue]*
6 The most important, quite honestly, is
7 the incident of hate in the community and the
8 tragic beating death of the Vietnamese youth
9 in Coral Springs, Florida.

9 I have taken this time and broken it
10 down into basically six areas.

11 The first area I would like to call our
12 representatives on would be some of the
13 difficulties we have dealt with on the
14 minorities set aside practice. I call your
15 attention to the Croson versus City of
16 Richmond, a 1989 case in the Supreme Court.

17 I would like to call Mr. Whang and Mr.
18 Hopkin Laman, president-elect of the
19 organization of the Chinese Americans, South
20 Florida Chapter.

21 They each have a view on minority set
22 asides.

23 I would like to present them for the

1 committee's consideration.

2 MR. WHANG: My name is Sang Whang,
3 S-a-n-g, W-h-a-n-g.

4 I am one of the newly elected board
5 members of Dade County Relations Board. *[Human]*

6 I am also the Korean American Community
7 Relations counsel.

8 We are trying to have some proactive
9 stance to improve Korean American/black
10 Americans relations here before any bad
11 effects take place.

12 I am proud to say that we are sending
13 three black ministers to South Korea to visit,
14 to see the Korea church.

15 This is November 30th, next week.

16 One Korean interpreter, one Korean
17 newspaper man.

18 This is not all negative.

19 There are some positive things going on.

20 The Asian American Association has more
21 to do with education.

22 Discrimination and so forth comes from
23 ignorance and miscommunication.

1 So we are trying to have a positive
2 educational kind of thing.

3 What the federation does, we have an
4 Asian Arts Festival, whereby we take one
5 weekend in spring out of the Dade County Parks
6 to have Asian arts and 16 countries have food
7 and entertainments and arts and crafts, to
8 teach the community the Asian arts and
9 cultures.

10 We have been very successful, for two
11 years.

12 I am looking for further success coming
13 February 27th and 28th. This is at the Fruits
14 and Spice Park in the Redlands area.

15 As we are taking positive steps to try
16 to improve the community relations and so
17 forth, there are a few incidents that come up,
18 which forces us to address the issue, trying
19 to resolve it, because those questions come to
20 the federation.

21 One of the issues was with the minority
22 set aside contract with the Dade County School
23 Board.

1 , , ' For years the Native Americans and Asian
2 Americans were part of that minority set aside
3 so that they had an opportunity to bid,
4 especially on set aside projects.

5 For some strange reason the last year
6 the Dade County School Board has elected to
7 delete Native Americans and Asian Americans
8 from that list.

9 They are saying that there is no proof
10 that those minorities were discriminated
11 against.

12 Therefore, to set aside means to be
13 playing favoritism.

14 That is, in essence, the justification
15 for doing that.

16 , , , We thought it was rather a strange
17 thing, especially in Dade County, where the
18 Hispanics are the majority but they are
19 considered as part of the minority set asides
20 and the Asian Americans and the Native
21 Americans are not.

22 I don't understand.

23 I don't profess to be a legal person.

1 But I just don't understand.

2 It doesn't make any sense to us.

3 This was one of the issues that we have
4 argued, unsuccessfully, in front of the school
5 board, in the last year.

6 The work is still continuing on.

7 It is something we felt the Commission
8 should know about.

9 The other, other than that, specifically
10 speaking for the Korean communities, a couple
11 of years ago one of the Korean students was
12 murdered and everybody knows quote "knows"
13 that it was involving with the--he was engaged
14 and his fiance's ex-boyfriend was the one who
15 committed the murder and the police
16 investigation was very mild.

17 There were no witnesses and not much
18 pursuit.

19 It is still in the dark.

20 No question, the Korean community feels
21 if this wasn't the Asian American, I'm sure
22 the police would have done much more of a
23 vigorous investigation.

1 Speaking of the hurricane and the
2 aftermath, there is a language problem with
3 the Korean immigrants.

4 MR. DOCTOR: Before you leave the
5 subject, could you elaborate a little more on
6 the incident involving the young man?

7 MR. WHANG: He was a member of the
8 Korean Presbyterian Church.

9 I don't have his name. I know his
10 fiance and his father.

11 They live down here.

12 I didn't get the details of the police
13 investigation, the numbers and so forth.

14 I could certainly follow that up and
15 supply that information, if you so desire.

16 With the Hurricane Andrew issue, we have
17 about 250 families who live down, Korean
18 families, who live down in Homestead, Florida
19 City area.

[Hurricane Andrew]

20 Most of them have got damages.

21 Some of them have insurance, which is
22 taking care of the damages.

23 Those who do not have the insurance

1 coverage are trying to get some aid with FEMA
2 and the Red Cross.

3 The language problem was a problem of
4 getting some forms filled in.

5 It was difficult to get assistance.

6 Most people just gave up.

7 You have to understand the Asian
8 Americans are silent minorities. They are not
9 really advocates and the noisy ones. We don't
10 get the oil because we don't squeak loud
11 enough.

12 Regardless, the hardships still continue
13 on.

14 They have been complaining about that
15 but we have not been making any noise.

16 This is the first opportunity I have in
17 coming up here to speak on that issue.

18 Other than that, it is difficult to get
19 legal help.

20 ● ▲ ● We don't have Korean-speaking
21 psychologists.

22 We don't have Korean-speaking lawyers.

23 So help is a little bit hard to get.

1 We may have to hire somebody if we had
2 some money to do that.

3 Those are the situations currently.

4 ▶ , , We try our best to improve the relations
5 and, after all, we all live here. We are in
6 the same boat and if the boat sinks we all
7 sink together.

8 We have to help each other.

9 Thank you very much for this
10 opportunity.

11 MR. DOCTOR: Thank you.

12 MR. LAMAN: Mr. Chairman, ladies and
13 gentlemen, my name is Hopkin Laman.

14 MR. BROWN: Would you please spell that.

15 MR. LAMAN: H-o-p-k-i-n, L-a-m-a-n.

16 ^{Local}
17 I am the president-elect of the
18 organization of Chinese Americans for the
19 fiscal year 1993.

19 Our organization, the organization of
20 Chinese Americans has 45 offices throughout
21 the length and breadth of the United States,
22 originating from Hawaii and even as distant as
23 Hong Kong, because the interests of the

1 Chinese in America, both from trading and
2 political points of view are being served
3 through our organization.

4 As a domestic organization our forte is
5 really to be a vanguard on racial
6 discrimination, hatred, glass ceilings and
7 anything that adversely affects our community.

8 Our role in South Florida has been very
9 minute up until now.

10 We have started to come out of the
11 woodwork.

12 Come January the 30th we will again be
13 having our Chinese New Year Festival at the
14 Miami-Dade Community College.

15 We have started to spearhead a
16 charitable organization, which began a year
17 and a half ago.

18 It wasn't put on this year because of
19 the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew but we
20 select a reputable charity organization and
21 combine the efforts with ours to raise funds
22 so that we can get to know the integral part
23 of the less fortunate people of this

1 community.

2 So the first venture was dedicated to
3 Camillus House, which we made \$25,000 and a
4 check was presented to them for half the
5 proceeds.

6 In the hurricane disaster the Taiwanese
7 government donated \$100,000 to this community
8 here, which I know is not too much but every
9 little bit counts.

10 We, ourselves, as a very small
11 organization, we drew from our funding \$10,000
12 and made it available to various
13 organizations, both community, religious and
14 otherwise, to help the less fortunate in this
15 instance.

16 Basically, I am here today to address
17 one thing.

18 Our contention is with the City of Miami
19 and ruling from the Office of Federal Contract
20 Compliance Program, OFCPP, as it relates to
21 Ordinance 10062, dealing with the debarment of
22 Asians to the city's minority business affairs
23 and procurement program when the Asians do not

1 comprise two percent of the population of the
2 City of Miami.

3 If the city and the OFCPP really wishes
4 to help the minorities in the true sense of
5 being a minority and true meaning of the word
6 minority they would remove the condition of
7 population obstacle.

8 The enormity of the situation is that
9 the recipients of most of these set aside
10 program benefits are, as Mr. Whang pointed
11 out, Hispanics who occupy 48 percent of the
12 benefits from these programs.

13 The dollar equivalent last year totaled
14 \$16.4 million.

15 The blacks had a 4.6 and 5 percent are
16 given to the women.

17 So far we have yet to be granted--when I
18 say "we" the Asian community, has yet to be
19 granted a fair deal on the set aside program.

20 I would like to make reference, because
21 we have brought this up before, with the City
22 of Miami, and in response from that office,
23 the memo from them read that the General

1 Service Administration has a goal setting for
2 minorities to increase economic parities based
3 upon a historic absence of these groups on
4 doing business with the city.

5 The disparity exists when minorities
6 doing business with the city are substantially
7 fewer than would be expected, in terms of
8 their overall representation in the business
9 community.

10 ▶ ▶ ▶ Let me assure you that the absence is
11 not due to disinterest on our part but the
12 lack of opportunity and the
13 disenfranchisement, from the obstacles.

14 In a recent application to the city an
15 Asian was rejected because he had no
16 appropriate check box classification form to
17 indicate whether he was Hispanic, black, a
18 woman, which were the only three boxes on that
19 application form.

20 The Asians are always being considered a
21 minority but apparently in this case they are
22 being singled out to be discriminated against
23 in this community.

1 We find the law iniquitous, punitive,
2 regressive and most certainly discriminatory.

3 As it stands, this law creates a
4 disbarment to a wide cross section of the
5 community, who would like to have access to
6 this program.

7 After all, the Asians are taxpayers,
8 too.

9 As responsible, fair and reasonable
10 citizens I appeal to you to conciliate our
11 plight, eradicate this discriminatory
12 practice, level the playing field and by so
13 doing we will be creating a racially just
14 community.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. DOCTOR: Before you leave, sir, just
17 one quick question.

18 What percentage, what exact percentage
19 of the population, of the Metro Miami area,
20 the city itself, what percentage of the
21 population is represented by Asians?

22 MR. LAMAN: The latest census we have
23 now is reading 1.2 plus. However, I do not

1 think that the census is fair because it did
2 not bring in Native Americans, the Seminoles
3 or whoever is here, because they are regarded
4 as part of our group as well.

5 I don't know, in rural Dade or
6 Metropolitan Miami how many the census has
7 compiled.

8 This much I know, our population is
9 increasing.

10 As it increases there is the need for a
11 departure from our traditional, which is
12 restaurant and shop keeping.

13 We need to get into, you know, outside
14 occupations, so that we can be totally
15 integrated into the area.

16 MR. DOCTOR: That is what minority set
17 aside programs are designed to do.

18 MR. LAMAN: This was the general
19 concept.

20 Right now we are not getting anything.
21 Absolutely nothing.

22 I think it is time for this law to be
23 repealed or this break should be given to us.

1 We deserve it.

2 MR. ENG: If I might add, the Asian
3 community has taken issue with the census
4 count as being an undercount of our community
5 in that there is always a natural reluctance
6 on the part of immigrants to deal with a
7 government agency, for lack of information.

8 They really don't know where it is going
9 to lead.

10 There is always a possibility they are
11 not quite accurate in the count.

12 The people do not realize that down the
13 road the impact it might have upon themselves.

14 Beyond that, it just seems, on another
15 facet that wasn't touched on, because of the
16 Croson decision there had to be discriminatory
17 acts to remediate.

18 That leads us into the problem of the
19 silent majority/minority, the stereotype of
20 the Asian community.

21 By our silence we have heard ourselves.

22 In the last couple of years we have
23 begun to call to the forefront acts of

1 discrimination.

2 It has been thrown back to us that no
3 one has complained about discrimination.

4 The Asians have been quietly toiling in
5 their own jobs and professions, trying to make
6 a better life for themselves in the community.

7 We find that has only tended to hurt us
8 by not speaking up.

9 That is another reason why we have
10 tried, in the last couple of years, to speak
11 up.

12 *This* I will move along.

13 *move this* I think the event that happened this
14 *Eng section* year, that galvanized the Asian community to
15 come together and to work towards civil rights
16 and issues related to civil rights was the
17 tragic beating death of Luven Phan Nguyen in
18 Coral Springs, Florida.

19 That occurred in August of 1992.

20 If I may, I will recount to the
21 Commission, briefly, the facts of the case.

22 Mr. Nguyen was a 19-year-old premed
23 student at the University of Miami.

1 He had finished up his freshman year and
2 was on summer recess and he was going back to
3 begin his sophomore year in premed studies.

4 He attended a party held in his own
5 neighborhood, thrown by basically teenage kids
6 in the 19 to 21-year-old age bracket, about
7 ready to go back to college.

8 In the course of the party itself there
9 were certain, if I may characterize it as
10 racially motivated or ethnic slurs that were
11 said, from what I understand, and from the
12 testimony that came out in court, not in his
13 presence, that were related to Mr. Nguyen.

14 Mr. Nguyen, of course, took offense to
15 these remarks and went back and asked if these
16 remarks had been made.

17 At this point he was confronted in the
18 room itself where the party was going on.

19 They went outside into the common area,
20 the grassy area, the parking area, where,
21 again, the confrontation continued.

22 At this point Mr. Nguyen, who at that
23 time was in the company of two other people,

1 was surrounded by at least five white males.

2 They started to back away and break off
3 the confrontation.

4 There had been some physical exchange of
5 slaps and words that were racist in tone.

6 At that point the group that Mr. Nguyen
7 was a part of, himself and two other people
8 ran away from the group that was confronting
9 them and went around behind the building.

10 At this point more people joined in the
11 chase to the extent where there were in total
12 15 people involved, physically.

13 They were able to separate Mr. Nguyen
14 from his other people, his other friends.

15 At that point he was beaten, kicked to
16 unconsciousness.

17 The death blow, from what I understand
18 it, was a kick to the back of the head with
19 such force it crushed his vertebrae and
20 severed an artery, causing a pooling of blood
21 in the base of his brain.

22 He expired on the 17th of August.

23 The other rather telling fact in this

1 whole scenario was that in the course of the
2 *Incident* speeding there were from 30 to 50 other people
3 standing by that did very little, if anything.

4 It finally took one of the residents of
5 the condo unit, the apartment unit, to call
6 the police.

7 They came out and responded but by that
8 time he was basically dead, for all practical
9 purposes.

10 As a result of that, the media in
11 Broward County contacted the Asian American
12 Federation for a response, to see how the
13 Asian community would feel.

14 We initially, when speaking with the
15 family, their initial feeling was "Is there
16 anybody out there who really cares?"

17 They came to this country from Vietnam.

18 The father fought alongside the United
19 States forces.

20 He had been in the Communist prison camp
21 for four years because of his beliefs.

22 The came over here expecting to find
23 safe harbor in this country, only to have this

1 monstrosity occur to their son.

2 As a result of that, the family was
3 pretty much dazed, just torn apart.

4 So the federation itself went about
5 organizing the Asian community in a response
6 to this situation, which, at this point, was
7 one of the first instances of racially-
8 motivated crimes against an Asian American,
9 that we have come across in South Florida.

10 As a result of that, we were able to
11 contact the national network against Asian
12 violence, which has testified before, before
13 the civil rights region previously.

14 Some of their studies were included in
15 civil rights issues facing Asian Americans in
16 1990.

17 Unfortunately, a lot of the issues
18 touched upon in that report, by the
19 Commission, still apply today.

20 Nevertheless, the situation is the law
21 enforcement agencies and the prosecution in
22 this particular case, we feel, have vigorously
23 pursued the investigation, rigorously

1 prosecuted those involved.

2 Ultimately, of the 15 people that were
3 allegedly involved in the beating seven were
4 actually indicted. Informations were lodged
5 against them.

6 One has gone to trial and has been
7 convicted.

8 The other six remain set for trial
9 sometime in March of next year.

10 The situation is obviously it was a very
11 traumatic experience for a lot of Asian
12 Americans.

13 Up to this point Asian Americans, as I
14 indicated previously, had been very much a
15 part of the community, never had experienced
16 any overt violence.

17 Then to have this type of situation
18 happen to them is very much a rude awakening.

19 I think it has galvanized the community
20 to the point where you see the people here
21 today have come together to contribute their
22 own efforts to the Asian American cause.

23 Going on, there are a couple of other

1 minor, I shouldn't say minor, they're all
2 important, a couple of issues that we have
3 also touched upon.

4 Obviously, one of the or an important
5 work of the Commission deals with
6 discrimination in the work place.

7 We have had reports, in the last couple
8 of years, with what we believe to be national
9 origin discrimination where you have an Asian
10 American who we feel has equal educational
11 capacity as a white or an African American
12 applicant for a similar position and for
13 whatever reason the Asian American is not
14 selected for that position, be it purported
15 inability to communicate with upper level
16 management or subordinates, be it the
17 inability to function socially within the work
18 place, whatever the reason given, we feel that
19 it is rather transparent in that nature and I
20 think Mr. Laman has touched upon the concept
21 of glass ceilings, also.

22 That is another issue that we haven't
23 addressed concretely.

1 That is another thing that we are
2 concerned about.

3 This happened to one gentleman that I
4 knew who had called me and we discussed his
5 case to see if there was anything to do, at
6 this point.

7 He was a highly educated person who
8 worked for a state government agency and had
9 been passed over for higher level supervisory
10 position because he felt, or he was told his
11 language skills weren't, I guess as required
12 for the position.

13 Now, I had another situation, and this
14 kind of all blends over into language
15 discrimination, where another lady had called
16 me and said that she was a real estate person
17 and they were, she was not allowed to field
18 telephone calls from potential clients.

19 They would call into the office.

20 The reason she was not allowed to do
21 that as every other salesperson in the office
22 was was because she was told her language
23 skills were not appropriate to field those

1 calls.

2 Now, you may obviously know about bona
3 fide occupational qualifications and all that
4 but the thing is if the person was qualified
5 enough to obtain a license to be a real estate
6 salesperson, surely they can at least carry on
7 a conversation with a potential client.

8 So, again, the argument is is that
9 sufficient to deny a person ability to get
10 cold calls or get the client just because they
11 feel they might not be the proper image to
12 project to a client because they can't
13 converse as well in English.

14 What we have done, as the federation,
15 those types of cases we have referred them
16 over to, in Broward County, to Human Rights
17 Commission, for them to at least begin the
18 process in the investigation.

19 If they want to do that they can go
20 through the EOC and into the courts.

21 It is a question of getting the
22 information out to the people, what steps they
23 must go to in order to comply with the

1 complaint.

2 Now, the other area I would like to
3 touch on would be in the area of multicultural
4 education.

5 Particularly in Broward County we have
6 dealt with a program up there that is referred
7 to as a Nova Middle School multicultural
8 program.

9 There are about 350 students, from 300
10 different countries, LEP children, limited
11 English deficiency children.

12 Our concern with education, with the
13 budgetary cutbacks in the educational field,
14 programs such as multicultural programs, where
15 they try to enhance the English, ability of
16 the English level on these children to get
17 them into the classroom, this could be
18 severely impacted because of a lack of funds.

19 This leads to the concern as to what
20 happens to the children if they are sent out
21 to the neighborhood schools without adequate
22 teachers proficient in their native language,
23 be it Chinese, Polish, Russian, whatever,

1 Portuguese.

2 Are these children then not denied an
3 equal ability to learn and have equal
4 educational opportunities as any child is
5 afforded or should be afforded in our public
6 school systems?

7 The concern here was that the parents in
8 this multicultural program had not heard
9 whether this program would be cut.

10 There were rumors afloat this program
11 would be cut and their children would be sent
12 into the mainstream or into the neighborhood
13 schools where they have language centers.

14 However, the language centers, at this
15 point, were ^[ed] gears to the Hispanic and Haitian
16 children because there are sufficient numbers
17 of them to justify hiring Spanish-qualified
18 and Creole-qualified teachers.

19 There were not enough Asian children who
20 would justify hiring a person competent in
21 Mandarin Chinese or Japanese to staff that
22 language center.

23 That is another issue that the

1 federation has taken up with the Broward
2 County School Board.

3 At this point we are in a state where
4 there has been no action taken to cut the
5 program.

6 However, there has been, from what I
7 have heard, a movement by the school board to
8 reduce or constrict the numbers of LEP
9 children into the programs so that by
10 attrition the program is going to go out of
11 existence and then the children will be sent
12 to neighborhood schools.

13 That is another concern of our
14 federation.

15 . . . What would be happening to the children,
16 having been a former prosecutor in Broward
17 County, you put a child in a school where he
18 is not going to keep up with the kids, he will
19 become frustrated.

20 They will drop out and get into drugs,
21 gangs, and become problems in the juvenile
22 justice system.

23 We would hate to see not only Asian kids

1 but any children, any learning limited
2 English-deficiency child end up in this type
3 of situation because the school board didn't
4 have the funds to carry on that program to
5 bring them up to a level of sufficiency in our
6 language schools.

7 Our representative of the Indian
8 community is here.

9 She has comments about the Hurricane
10 Andrew relief by the federal government, that
11 would be appropriate for the Commission's
12 consideration.

13 MR. BROWN: Before we do that, do you
14 have any comments on the recent court decision
15 on the hate crimes bill?

16 It seems to me that we took a horrible
17 case--it is so obvious in the case of the
18 murder of Nguyen but in other kinds of cases,
19 if it had just been a fight it might have been
20 easily dismissed as a fight between different
21 individuals, as opposed to an ethnic and
22 racial hate crime, under the new decision.

23 MR. ENG: Florida is unusual. I

1 wouldn't say unusual. Florida is in one
2 category and this can be done two ways.

3 Hate crimes can be legislated against,
4 even though they can't be legislated out of
5 existence, unfortunately.

6 You have enhancement-type statutes in
7 Florida.

8 If somebody is convicted of the
9 underlying criminal act, misdemeanor or like
10 battery or a felony charge like aggravated
11 battery penalties can be enhanced one step
12 because of the hate crime conviction.

13 You have other states where there is an
14 independent crime known as a hate crime that
15 one can be convicted of in addition to an
16 underlying crime such as battery or aggravated
17 battery.

18 Since the Florida statute is an
19 enhancement type, in this particular case,
20 Nguyen's case, if these young men had gone up
21 and punched in the mouth, while calling him
22 racial slurs and inciting other people to join
23 in, potentially they could have been charged

1 with a hate crime.

2 A battery could have been elevated from
3 a misdemeanor offense to a felony.

4 However, if they went out there and beat
5 him to death, because he happened to be of the
6 wrong skin color, I should say what they
7 charged him with was the straight murder two
8 in the State of Florida, with no hate crime
9 enhancement.

10 What happens in Florida, there is a gap
11 in the hate crime law in Florida.

12 Hate crime law applies to misdemeanors
13 up to second degree felonies and does not
14 apply to first degree felonies such as in this
15 particular situation, murder in the second
16 degree.

17 There was a consideration, an effort on
18 the part of the legislature to take away
19 discretion from prosecutors to enhance what
20 would be a life felony into a death penalty
21 because of the mere fact that a hate crime had
22 been proven out.

23 There is that gap in the law.

1 Maybe the enhancement from life
2 imprisonment to death might not be appropriate
3 and probably would not stand the scrutiny in
4 the Supreme Court.

5 Nevertheless, there might be a mandatory
6 minimum sentence that might be applicable.

7 There are a lot of variations on the
8 punishment that might be accorded a person.

9 I think that legislature needs to look
10 into that.

11 The Florida hate crime has been under
12 severe attack in the Florida courts for
13 different reasons, for vagueness and
14 constitutional reasons and presently, as we
15 sit here in Dade County, recently the Third
16 District Court of Appeals threw out the hate
17 crimes law.

18 Hopefully that will signal the
19 legislature to reconsider hate crimes and
20 tighten up the language.

21 Even as a former prosecutor I have had
22 problems with the way the language is written.

23 MR. BROWN: Is your organization doing

1 anything with providing information to the
2 legislature as to how that bill should be
3 tightened up so we have a bill that addresses
4 that type of crime that can be effective?

5 MR. ENG: What we have done, we have
6 liaised with the NAACP, Fort Lauderdale
7 chapter, and even more with the Miami Regional
8 Chapter of the Anti Defamation League of B'Nai
9 Brith and Arthur Teitlebaum and his
10 organization.

11 They basically wrote the model hate
12 crime bill.

13 From what I understand the legislature
14 changed the language.

15 We have been working with Mr.
16 Teitlebaum's group to try and at least give
17 our input into that.

18 Formally lobbying legislators in
19 Tallahassee, no, honestly we have not.

20 We have let people know that we have
21 problems with the hate crime law.

22 Obviously it was the Nguyen situation
23 was a situation that cried out for the

1 application of a hate crimes law but because
2 of a technical quirk in the law it was not
3 applicable in Florida.

4 We are, I should say, glad on the
5 federal level they enacted the criminal hate
6 crimes reporting act in 1990.

7 They are going to pass a hate crimes act
8 on the federal level.

9 Hopefully we will see if that will have
10 any impact.

11 Obviously, another facet of the Nguyen
12 situation is potential civil rights
13 deprivation lawsuit.

14 These are all serious considerations
15 after the state prosecution is concluded.

16 This gentleman would like to say
17 something.

18 MR. GENTY: My name is Peter Genty. I
19 have a maintenance cleaning service.

20 I feel I was discriminated against by
21 the City of Miami.

22 The federal law says that Asians have to
23 be qualified to be a minority.

1 You know, suppose like the blacks or the
2 Hispanics go somewhere, some part of the
3 America where their population is below two
4 percent and then you see an Asian group that
5 is over two percent getting all the big
6 contracts, wouldn't they also say that is
7 discrimination, if they are below two percent?

8 I think it is discrimination.

9 This law needs to be eradicated.

10 Any ethnic group that might go to
11 Montana, it would be different there or if
12 they go to San Francisco, if I go there or Los
13 Angeles I would be qualified as a in minority
14 because I am above two percent.

15 What happened is like my wife, who is
16 black, she goes to some part of this country
17 and they will tell her no, you fall below two
18 percent. She is not qualified as a minority.

19 Then it is a double-edged sword.

20 I had to transfer the business to my
21 wife's name because they tell me my business
22 has to be owned by 51 percent.

23 There are three categories of

1 minorities, female, black or Hispanic.

2 I am trying to educate Mayor Suarez.

3 Suppose Hispanic groups go to Ohio and
4 there is a low percent of Hispanics there or
5 blacks and they can't compete to get bids.

6 Like I said, it's going to be a double-
7 edged sword.

8 If it is not changed very soon it is
9 going to cause a lot of difficulties for
10 people, more and more.

11 I am just--who made this two percent?
12 Why did they get two percent?

13 I am not a percent. I am a human being.

14 I am trying to get myself off the
15 ground.

16 I am trying to compete.

17 I am trying like a normal human being
18 here.

19 I came from Kingston, Jamaica.

20 I joined the National Guard.

21 I find I ran into the brick wall here.

22 "You are not two percent. You are
23 nobody."

1 I went to the City of Miami public
2 meeting and I asked three questions, "How do
3 you qualify an ethnic group as a minority and
4 where do the Asians stand? Do you have any
5 plans for the Asians?"

6 They have not given me any answer.

7 They say the Asians, "You are too much
8 of a minority to be a minority."

9 MR. BROWN: Does anybody have specifics
10 of where the two percent comes from?

11 MR. BROWN: You are talking about the
12 federal two percent.

13 You explained it and may not have
14 realized how you explained it.

15 The reason the two percent is there is
16 to give the impact to the people in the local
17 community that are the majority within the
18 minority.

19 You gave the example of going to San
20 Francisco.

21 The purpose of the federal intent is
22 wherever that group is it is to allow a
23 minority group that is prevalent to make sure

1 they get some quote over the quote unquote
2 majority group of white people, wherever that
3 is, although it is discrimination within the
4 discrimination.

5 The explanation you gave is the federal
6 intent somebody who is white in San Francisco
7 should not be able to get the contract there
8 and you are a competent person to get it.

9 The problem that you are explaining is
10 the problem that everybody is having with
11 minority set asides anywhere, especially with
12 the Native American community.

13 With over 500 tribes you would never get
14 one tribe that would qualify for over two
15 percent anywhere.

16 Although the feds feel they helped the
17 situation to some extent it is another
18 problem.

19 MR. BROWN: Is that legislation or
20 guideline?

21 MS. BROWN: It is workable.

22 I am giving you the legislative intent
23 of that guidelines.

1 It was to correct one other
2 discrimination that had occurred, pattern and
3 practice from before.

4 That is the purpose of it.

5 It doesn't mean that it has to be that
6 way.

7 When you ask why it is that is the
8 legislative intent for that.

9 You are right, it restricts the travel
10 that you could make all over the country but
11 everybody else has that same restriction.

12 I applaud the fact that you are fighting
13 that.

14 MR. DOCTOR: You certainly should
15 continue to fight it.

16 MR. BROWN: It certainly exacerbates,
17 those kind of regulations exacerbate racial
18 tension.

19 MR. GENTY: I was going to fight it by
20 myself.

21 I am trying to see if the Asian American
22 Federation is going to fight it.

23 I am trying to avoid any group that

1 migrates to any other part of the United
2 States having this problem.

3 MR. BROWN: I think you are focusing on
4 the City of Miami.

5 I was wondering whether the City of
6 Miami has that discretion?

7 It may not have discretion.

8 You are talking about a federal
9 guideline.

10 You have to focus on the compliance
11 where it can be changed.

12 The city may be able to change if it can
13 deal with 1.2 it can do certain things under
14 some counts and others they can address it
15 from that angle.

16 As far as two percent per se you are
17 talking about federal regulation that emanates
18 originally from the Croson decision and they
19 are trying to adapt to it.

20 MR. BROWN: You pointed out one of the
21 fallacies.

22 It was to correct one thing and look at
23 the other problem.

1 With any federal legislation you have
2 got to look where you are.

3 MR. GENTY: It will have to change
4 because, like I said, going to the statistics
5 of the census it has been shown that some of
6 the ethnic groups of blacks and Hispanics in
7 certain areas I know when the program hits
8 them there they are going to say, "It helped
9 me in Miami but it didn't help me here."

10 Thank you very much, gentleman.

11 MR. ENG: For the Commission's
12 information, the federal legislation has been
13 approached by the Dade County School Board and
14 kind of beginning to see if there could be a
15 way to write the Asian American back into the
16 Dade County School Board set aside program.

17 There has been some movement.

18 It hasn't been a two percent or out.

19 It takes time.

20 The next problem we run into is finding
21 qualified people to bid for these programs.

22 It is not set in stone or cast in stone.

23 "I will let this lady speak, now.

1 MS. SREEKUMAR: I want to first thank
2 the Commission for giving us an opportunity to
3 express our concerns and our views.

4 I work very closely with the Asian
5 Federation.

6 That has 15 other ethnic organizations
7 affiliated with the Asian Federation.

8 That is the umbrella.

9 The Association of Indians in Miami is
10 just one organization affiliated with them.

11 I coordinated the efforts of all the
12 associations that were affiliated under this
13 umbrella.

14 Through it, you know, certain concerns
15 came up.

16 MR. BROWN: Miss, could we get your
17 name?

18 MS. SREEKUMAR: Leila Sreekumar,
19 S-r-e-e-k-u-m-a-r.

20 My first name is Leila, L-e-i-l-a.

21 I want to state, first of all, I
22 personally was not affected or financially
23 hurt by the hurricane.

1 Emotionally it took a toll on everybody.

2 I live in West Palm Beach.

3 However, when we started to work we
4 found that FEMA, when they came in, it was
5 just the disaster was so big no--I don't think
6 anybody can expect any one organization to
7 fill the needs of everybody right away.

8 So we all tried to do a little bit.

9 We targeted our own communities when we
10 went in there with carloads of supplies.

11 We didn't discriminate to anybody if we
12 saw an American, we saw anybody Hispanic, we
13 just gave whatever we had in the trucks and we
14 came back empty.

15 We did target our own people.

16 We discovered a lot of problems,
17 starting with the SBA.

18 Our main problem there was they ran out
19 of forms.

20 We spoke to the regional director and
21 the national director.

22 We have documented correspondence with
23 them.

1 To date--we talked to them in September.
2 We are yet to see the forms that we were going
3 to be sent to our organization to give to the
4 people.

5 I mean, we don't have forms to fill in
6 the applications.

7 How can we give any relief to the
8 victims.

9 That was like a major problem that the
10 organization itself incurred.

11 Another thing that we incurred was that
12 they initially gave us to understand that each
13 business would have a \$500,000.00 limit to
14 what money that they would give to the
15 businesses but after we took weeks and weeks
16 to prepare the documentation, because we
17 assisted the victims in filing for it, then
18 when we presented to them this then they said
19 it is accumulative of \$500,000.00 for any
20 file, on five businesses.

21 I don't get \$500,000.00 for all
22 businesses.

23 For all your businesses you get a

1 \$500,000.00 cap.

2 If that was the case our biggest problem
3 was information dissemination.

4 They never directly gave information.

5 We had a problem with the Beacon
6 Council.

7 Every time they give us the information
8 they say it is a simple application.

9 It is a two-page application.

10 They say, "You just fill it and we will
11 give you immediate relief for \$25,000.00."

12 When we fill the two-page application,
13 when we turn it in they would change the
14 rules.

15 They would say, "You are missing this,
16 you are missing this."

17 We would receive the application. You
18 receive it, you fill it out.

19 They say there is plenty of time and for
20 us to come back. They give us a time to come
21 back.

22 They tell us, "When you have this done
23 come back."

1 Then they say, "Now we are closed."

2 I don't know whether it was the color of
3 our skin or whatever it was. We kept--one by
4 one they kept changing the rules on us.

5 We couldn't pin anybody down.

6 We got lost in the shuffle.

7 I found that to be, we had great
8 problems with the Beacon Council, the Indian
9 community, with getting their forms to them.

10 I am not sure--it had nothing to do with
11 the people up there.

12 • • • The banks that were accepting these
13 applications just gave us the run-around. I
14 don't know why.

15 MR. BROWN: You put the applications in
16 to individual banks for funds from the Beacon
17 Council, not to the Beacon Council office
18 itself?

19 MS. SREEKUMAR: Different banks.

20 We couldn't go--we were strapped for
21 transportation so we went, they told us you
22 can take it to certain banks.

23 They were using the banks as a

1 processing place.

2 They had given us a sheet to say you
3 could drop it here, like each site.

4 There were two or three places where you
5 could go.

6 The places they said it was all right
7 for us to go to those places but when we
8 filled in the applications they didn't accept
9 it.

10 MR. BROWN: Were the Beacon Council
11 employees stationed in the bank?

12 MS. SREEKUMAR: I will ask him to
13 explain.

14 MR. PATEL: My name is Sammy Patel. It
15 is good to be here, as well.

16 MR. BROWN: Would you spell your name.

17 MR. PATEL: My last name is P-a-t-e-l
18 and my first name is too long so we will live
19 with Sammy.

20 Let me give you the information about
21 myself.

22 I came about 20 years back to go to
23 school in this country.

1 I earned an MBA degree from the
2 University of Texas with a 4.0.

3 I decided to go into business because I
4 was too young to find a job.

5 I was with the insurance company six
6 months and decided to go into business.

7 This country is great. There is a lot
8 of opportunity and freedom of enterprise.

9 Anybody with knowledge can do anything
10 they want.

11 This is a great number one nation.

12 We came here and started to settle down
13 here.

14 Now, August 24th comes, ruins everything
15 I had for 20 years, it took me 20 years to
16 accumulate. Everything I have.

17 Now the problem is trying to put it back
18 and rebuild.

19 Rebuild Homestead, rebuild Florida,
20 rebuild South Dade.

21 Well, unfortunately 28 days later we
22 found out that the insurance company called
23 Great Republic went to the Commissioner's

1 office and they filed for Chapter 11.

2 They are closing the doors on
3 liquidation.

4 Now they are in liquidation.

5 The news came to us. The letter came
6 in.

7 We didn't know what liquidation is.

8 We kept paying for premiums for a number
9 of years, hoping everything is going to be
10 taken care of but it is the other way around.

11 It is you're waiting, waiting, then you
12 are waiting for the insurance company money.

13 Or the Beacon Council.

14 Now the Beacon Council is coming in
15 between.

16 We went to the Beacon Council to apply
17 for a loan.

18 We filled out the form for the bank.

19 Getting back to your question, banks
20 were taking the applications and sending it
21 out to the Beacon Council.

22 They had some officer there available,
23 two or three officers to review those

1 applications.

2 First they came with two-page
3 applications to fill out.

4 We had that filled out the first day and
5 took it out there.

6 Then they said, "We need the financial
7 statement, the gross office receipts."

8 It has to come from an accountant.

9 Everything was ruined in the hurricane.

10 We asked them, "Could I have two or
11 three days?"

12 They said, "Of course. Take your time.
13 Take your application back."

14 It was a mistaken.

15 They should have accepted our
16 application and we could have submitted to
17 them additional information. It could have
18 been filed later on.

19 They said, "No, we have plenty of time.

20 "There is a lot of funding."

21 When we got done with the application it
22 was, "No, we are out of funds. We are not
23 accepting any more applications."

1 I went to the Beacon Council myself, to
2 the downtown office.

3 I came in, presented the application.

4 "We can't do anything."

5 I said, "Look here, if you do this it is
6 going to be a big case. I would like you to
7 review it. Take it.

8 "I am sure you don't have funds today."

9 I am sure some of the people had funds
10 and they got what they needed or other money
11 came in.

12 They were supposed to repay so that the
13 other parts of the money that comes back would
14 be available for some needy people.

15 I told them I would need money because I
16 have been turned down by my own insurance
17 company.

18 They put their hands up.

19 I went to FEMA in between to get some
20 help.

21 FEMA said, "Fine. Fill out an
22 application."

23 They said, "You have insurance?"

1 I said, "Of course, but the insurance
2 company went under."

3 "No, we can't help you."

4 They said, "You fill out an application
5 with SBA."

6 Yes, of course I did that.

7 "We can't help you."

8 Where would I live? Where do I take my
9 kids?

10 How would I go through a day-to-day
11 lifestyle.

12 We asked the insurance company to supply
13 us the living expenses for our home.

14 I think everybody in America has a home.
15 All the citizens have a home. My home is
16 gone.

17 I asked for them to give me money so I
18 could have living expense money.

19 They said, "No."

20 FEMA cannot help me because I have
21 insurance.

22 "You have insurance. The State is going
23 to help, now."

1 They said FIGA, the Insurance Guarantee
2 Association.

3 They said the Commissioner is coming in.
4 The Commissioner did the best, I am sure
5 what he can do.

6 They asked what is the claim.

7 We called. We asked them.

8 They asked, "Do you know what the
9 definition of the claim is? Can you classify
10 for me what the claim is?"

11 They said, "We can't tell you that. We
12 don't have an answer ourselves."

13 We called the Commissioner and asked
14 him.

15 Of course, the insurance company is
16 gone.

17 Now we own property and they have
18 mortgages. The lenders are private
19 institutions.

20 They need the insurance coverage.

21 They want to know, "When are you going
22 to get your next mortgage, next payment?"

23 Because since that day my income has

1 been nothing.

2 The expenses are piling up.

3 There are the mortgages. We got the tax
4 bill that came in today, the property tax
5 bill, which I got to pay if I want to use the
6 discount by November.

7 I don't have a penny.

8 I am trying to pay but I have no money.
9 I can't pay the taxes. I can't pay to
10 purchase insurance.

11 The landlord, the mortgage holder, they
12 require you to have insurance.

13 They say, "When are you going to pay the
14 money?"

15 Today I received notice from the bank,
16 they are going to call up the mortgage.

17 It is the third month we could not pay
18 the money, which is their rights.

19 The other question is does anybody have
20 any solution for this?

21 Does anybody have a solution that when a
22 company goes under how would they help?

23 How would they give advance money, a

1 little money to hold it together.

2 I am trying to express my mind. This
3 affects your ability to think.

4 We are a minority. I am in a minority.
5 I am a United States citizen.

6 We have contractors who came in with the
7 code.

8 We said well, we can't pay you.

9 "When the insurance money comes in we
10 can.

11 "Can you put a roof so we won't have
12 additional damage to the property?"

13 They said, "No, we have got to get
14 paid."

15 "You have got to have 50 percent when
16 you sign the contract, another 25 percent when
17 we do the work and the rest of the percent at
18 the end."

19 To do a roof I would need \$35,000.00.

20 This is my house. It is a five-bedroom
21 house.

22 Where would I come up with \$35,000.00?

23 When I was running a business \$35,000.00

1 was a piece of cake. I could pull it out of
2 the business because I was operating.

3 Now, the outstanding bills, every
4 businessman has them but it is very difficult
5 to fill that gap when you don't have any
6 answer.

7 We went to FEMA.

8 We even went to FIGA, which is the
9 Florida Insurance Guarantee Fund, to find out
10 where we stand on our claim.

11 They told us that "You will get paid."

12 I asked them, "When?"

13 "We don't know that."

14 We hear in the newspaper they are paying
15 \$6 million out a day.

16 Now we hear today they say "\$1 million a
17 day."

18 But who are they paying?

19 Are they paying people? Are they paying
20 people?

21 A part of it every day, a new company,
22 new insurance company, five insurance
23 companies went under.

1 Now we hear some more are coming in.

2 Of course they are going to come in

3 because the Commissioner or the insurance in
4 the State of Florida or in the country, in
5 America, they don't have any regulations.

6 How would they allow a company that has
7 \$6 million--my company, Great Republic, had \$6
8 million worth of assets, \$55 million insured.
9 They collected 3.5 million in insurance.

10 They claimed \$6 million.

11 The same people who owned Great Republic
12 Bank they are the same people who own the Farm
13 Stores.

14 They have a lot of assets.

15 They can decide, the board can decide,
16 say \$40 million, cough it up. Let's close
17 that down. Let's go to Chapter 11.

18 Two years down the road they will be
19 back in the insurance business.

20 If you look in the third quarter they
21 are in the millions of dollars.

22 Of course they have the rights.

23 Everybody is doing it according to their

1 rights.

2 We are not blaming them but should the
3 government, state or federal, have a program
4 when a company goes under that there is
5 something to protect people.

6 Now they are saying \$300,000.00, you
7 have a cap on it.

8 Is it per policy, per insured, per
9 building, per roof? Nobody knows.

10 Let's say, for example, if somebody has
11 a claim for \$200,000.00 and it is covered for
12 \$200,000.00, insurance for \$200,000.00, he
13 doesn't have to worry about it because his cap
14 is \$300,000.00.

15 However, the max he could collect from
16 the insurance company, from FIGA is I don't
17 know.

18 What if a guy has \$2.5 million worth of
19 property?

20 They are saying you are only eligible
21 for \$300,000.00, which is our top limit.

22 You could go to get federal help, go to
23 the SBA, fill out the loan.

1 They say, "The max we can lend you is
2 \$500,000.00, \$800,000.00."

3 The guy has got to come up with another
4 \$700,000.00 to pay his bills, just to build
5 the building.

6 We are not talking about what he has
7 lost on the income, what it will take him to
8 rebuild or how long to take him to come to the
9 position where he was having a comfortable
10 living, supporting his family and living the
11 lifestyle he was living.

12 Who would give that \$700,000.00?

13 Where would he collect?

14 Does he file Chapter 11 and forget about
15 it?

16 MR. DOCTOR: Let me just interrupt you
17 for a second, if I may.

18 It is interesting to note that the
19 insurance industry here in this country is
20 certainly one of the wealthiest industries in
21 America.

22 It is also one of the industries that
23 remains unregulated by the federal government.

1 It has one of the most powerful lobbies
2 in the country.

3 Certainly that should be noted.

4 I have made a note here, for whatever it
5 is worth, that there certainly needs to be a
6 concerted, a good, strong look at the need for
7 regulating insurance companies in this
8 country.

9 That is certainly one of the things I am
10 going to recommend that our agency look
11 closely at, especially give what has gone on
12 down here in Miami.

13 Also what went on in Charleston, South
14 Carolina and certainly what is likely to go on
15 up in the southern region further up North,
16 Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, North
17 Carolina and Georgia.

18 This is ridiculous. Just on the face of
19 it it is ridiculous.

20 I can assure you that I certainly am
21 going to make that recommendation, for
22 whatever it is worth.

23 MR. PATEL: We face the problem now, the

1 adjusters, they are putting evaluations.

2 I went to see FIGA adjusters last week.

3 He said, "You have a full claim."

4 I said, "One house claim and three
5 property claims."

6 He said, "I am sure you got paid on your
7 house."

8 I said, "No, -I haven't received one
9 penny."

10 He said, "Let me see your file."

11 He started to pull my file. They
12 couldn't find it.

13 I said, "I have an adjuster."

14 We hired a private adjuster.

15 He has a file.

16 The other adjuster said, "Can you send
17 it down? I can cut you a check for \$50,000.00
18 living expenses and you can at least be
19 comfortable. You could put a roof on the
20 house."

21 I said, "That would be a great help."

22 It would be if he would be nice enough
23 to do that.

1 He got the file delivered.

2 He said, "Come the next day and collect
3 the check."

4 I went.

5 The security guy tells me, "Turn around
6 and go back. I will arrest you."

7 He said, "You don't have an
8 appointment."

9 Then he says, "Call 854-4000."

10 That number I have dialed. It is FIGA's
11 number. You can't get through on that number.

12 You leave a message. They will never
13 get back to you.

14 I even give them policy numbers from
15 file numbers.

16 "Please let me know if you cannot get me
17 money.

18 "I want to know so I don't waste my time
19 calling you.

20 "It is a hope that you have given me,
21 'Come back or I can do something for you.'"

22 They have funds for their friends or
23 somebody. I don't know.

1 We are confused.

2 Now, farming, you know, we were told by
3 the government that you come and go and spend
4 64 percent up to certain dollars, \$64,000.00
5 and that the government will pay 64 percent on
6 the restoration of irrigation.

7 People went in and spent money.

8 I spent money.

9 I hired six guys.

10 They want to work for cash only. They
11 don't want to take a check.

12 We are forced to find help, even though
13 we pay six or seven dollars an hour.

14 We got it done now.

15 The government says we can get money.

16 They will come inspect your property and
17 then "We will decide."

18 It has been almost three months.

19 I haven't seen the inspector.

20 I am an ethnic Indian vegetable grower,
21 which is very rare in this country.

22 I am trying to make some money.

23 I would like to provide the facility for

1 ethnic and Indian people to have their own
2 vegetable, which is not available to them
3 commercially.

4 We are going into a rare thing, doing
5 the best that we can.

6 MR. BROWN: I don't mean to try to cut
7 you off but we do need to be getting of here
8 at 5:00.

9 I would like to know how many more
10 people do need to speak.

11 There is Tom Battles.

12 We do need to wrap this up.

13 I don't want to lose our people here as
14 well, some of whom have to get planes.

15 MR. BROWN: May I have your name?

16 MS. ALLBAUGH: I am Florence Allbaugh
17 from the Filipino community.

18 MR. BROWN: We appreciate your coming.

19 All of us have learned a great deal, in
20 terms of the scope and breadth of your
21 organization.

22 I certainly commend you for beginning to
23 be much more active and involved in these

1 issues.

2 MS. SREEKUMAR: Sammy Patel is one
3 person.

4 There are over 200 families with just
5 similar stories.

6 He has covered it all.

7 MR. PATEL: I am trying to give mine as
8 an example.

9 MR. BROWN: Ms. Allbaugh, how do you
10 spell your name?

11 MS. ALLBAUGH: Florence Allbaugh,
12 A-l-l-b-a-u-g-h.

13 With regards to that, thank you for
14 taking the time here.

15 I am a member of the Asian American
16 Federation.

17 I am also a member of the Federation of
18 Philippine American Associations and other
19 Filipino associations in the county, Broward.

20 I reside in Broward.

21 There are just a few concerns and I
22 don't want to take up any more of your time.

23 One of the things that we do need

1 assistance with is getting proper notification
2 for bidding when biddings are available in a
3 county.

4 We were told, when we were declined for
5 our status in Dade County, that they had sent
6 out notification.

7 However, no notification was received by
8 anyone in our community.

9 That is one point.

10 Secondly, I would like to see better or
11 more open communications between county,
12 state, regional, whatever, with the community. *[Asian]*

13 What we did in Broward is we have
14 started open lines of communication.

15 We have met with Broward County
16 Commissioners on a one-to-one basis,
17 individually.

18 Like a group of us would set up an
19 appointment and meet with County Commissioners
20 about concerns and how we can work together
21 and develop a relationship.

22 Third, we would also like to be able to
23 actively participate in the boards that have a

1 great influence on what happens to us in the
2 community because currently, at least in
3 Broward County, from my experience, there are
4 only two boards that have any Asians on them
5 and I and Kee are on those two boards.

6 Dade County, I am sure, in Dade there
7 are a lot of boards also and I am sure that
8 there are not any or if there are maybe one or
9 two Asians represented on those boards or in
10 any community positions and I would like to
11 see that take effect as soon as we can
12 possibly work that into the schedules.

13 I am going to say thank you.

14 Any questions?

15 MS. LITTLER: Isn't it a law that those
16 bids have to be published in the newspaper?

17 MS. ALLBAUGH: They also notified us
18 that they had sent out bid notices to our
19 community.

20 If they had we would have received it
21 and we would have been able to respond.

22 MR. ENG: The bids are published in the
23 Spanish community papers and maybe African

1 American but not the Asian community papers.

2 There were no notices published for
3 those who read solely those papers rather than
4 papers of general circulation that those bids
5 were open.

6 We would like to get active
7 participation in the boards.

8 We do realize that is where the root of
9 all government basically stems from.

10 MR. DOCTOR: I thought you were going to
11 say the root of all evil.

12 MR. BROWN: Do you want to have a
13 concluding segment?

14 MR. LAMAN: One more high note.

15 The organization of Chinese Americans
16 has been able to get a commemorative stamp,
17 which is being released on the 30th of
18 December.

19 It is the year of the rooster, 1993.

20 Watch out for it, all stamp collectors.

21 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

22 MR. BATTLES: Perhaps there could be
23 follow-up conversation with our staff, that

1 you may not have time for today.

2 Give me an idea of what you would like
3 from me.

4 MR. BROWN: We are talking about the
5 aftermath of Andrew and the services that have
6 been provided or the lack of services that
7 have been provided.

8 Is there any discrimination connected
9 with it.

10 We have heard a lot of stories perhaps
11 suggesting there is certainly not widespread
12 discrimination but certainly a great deal of
13 insensitivity.

14 We have heard claims of insurance
15 companies that border on fraudulent kinds of
16 activities.

17 We have heard stories of insurance
18 companies that are now claiming to be out of
19 business, leaving a lot of people in the hole.

20 There are all sorts of complaints.

21 Certainly we have also heard complaints
22 and concerns expressed about the increase in
23 racial tensions resulting from all of this.

1 I would say, Tom, perhaps look at it
2 from a twofold outlook.

3 One is we will be, next fall, pulling
4 together all of our materials from the State
5 of Florida in a basic report on racial
6 tensions in the State of Florida and we are
7 looking at that increase and we need the input
8 of that report.

9 I would say that we are also looking at
10 communicating with the Commission in terms of
11 our views of what we think the new, what we
12 would like to urge the Commission to take a
13 stand on and urge the incoming administration
14 to do, the incoming administration.

15 What happens as a result of Andrew,
16 communication from our committee to the
17 Commission requesting that they ask the
18 federal government to examine and look at
19 various items, this is what we have been
20 looking at.

21 It is those kinds of things.

22 I expect that that kind of communication
23 will go forward shortly after this meeting.

1 MR. BATTLES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Members of the Advisory Committee, I am
3 Tom Battles, Conciliation Specialist, United
4 States Department of Justice, Community
5 Relations Service.

6 We began our involvement with the
7 hurricane relief effort at the beginning of
8 the hurricane.

9 I rode it out at the storm, at the Dade
10 County emergency operating center.

11 Once the opportunity created itself to
12 get out into the community and identify the
13 areas that were most devastated we began to do
14 that.

15 We made contact with headquarters and
16 then we found out that where FEMA officials
17 were at that time.

18 We made the contact on the 24th of
19 August.

20 At that time they were in Tallahassee
21 with the Governor.

22 There were people here in the city but
23 the federal coordinating officers, at that

1 time, were in Tallahassee with the Governor,
2 in preparation to moving down here to the area
3 to officially set up the disaster field
4 office.

5 When the field office was here we
6 brought to their attention the need for
7 special emphasis in the immigrant community.

8 Obviously there were certain concerns in
9 the Cuban and Haitian communities that we felt
10 strongly about.

11 We knew there needed to be a special
12 effort to provide assistance to that
13 population, particularly undocumented
14 immigrants, who perhaps would have problems as
15 they begin to understand the process of
16 accessing assistance, getting into the
17 disaster centers and being educated by the
18 process.

19 So we were able to share with FEMA the
20 special need.

21 They allowed us to establish three
22 special immigration teams to do that.

23 We were able, also, to hire local

1 people, who have familiarity with the
2 population.

3 We also provided another assistance to
4 FEMA which was translation.

5 Because of circumstances, many of the
6 documents they had were in English and Spanish
7 and they did not have documents in Creole.

8 As part of our team effort we were able
9 to get a lot of the documents, all of the
10 documents they distributed throughout the
11 entire county were translated by our staff and
12 sent with the teams that were out in the
13 field.

14 We were also able to identify local
15 people who could be hired to work for FEMA as
16 well as SBA, as well as the state.

17 So we provided that assistance
18 throughout the network of organizations,
19 throughout the county.

20 CRS brought in staff from around the
21 county.

22 I think at one time throughout the
23 county we had 24 people in and out here

1 working.

2 We also brought in our American staff,
3 Native American staff and went into the
4 Miccosoukee, Seminole tribes to provide
5 assessments and identify their needs.

6 We were able to provide that unique
7 assistance throughout this process, in working
8 with FEMA.

9 We were attached to the individual
10 assistance unit, the outreach unit.

11 The primary mission of that unit was to
12 go out, put information out, bring information
13 in, solve problems.

14 We organized the meetings, community
15 meetings.

16 We held meetings in churches.

17 We were very instrumental in identifying
18 and bringing leaders into this community, who
19 needed to meet with FEMA.

20 We organized those meetings, facilitated
21 those meetings at the highest levels.

22 FEMA was open to meeting with
23 leadership.

1 I think that is one of the good things
2 about this process.

3 There are certainly, in a disaster of
4 this magnitude, there are problems that will
5 happen and occur and many did but I think that
6 FEMA's openness and willingness to meet with
7 anybody who wanted to meet, for the most part,
8 when we identified them, was very helpful in
9 this process of identifying problems in trying
10 to solve them.

11 As I said, there are many problems.

12 This particular disaster, unlike South
13 Carolina, strained everybody's resources.

14 At the federal government, when you look
15 at the data, statistics, whatever they did in
16 Hugo this was two or three times larger than
17 that situation.

18 It created some difference.

19 A lot of things perhaps they did in this
20 situation were things that they thought about
21 doing right on the spot, that wasn't in the
22 federal response manual.

23 So in an effort to get checks and money

1 out to the disaster victims as soon as
2 possible a lot of things happened that perhaps
3 wouldn't have happened in a smaller disaster.

4 We were involved in training, sharing
5 with FEMA some of the insights of this
6 community, some of the needs and issues that
7 caused this community to be one of the most
8 interesting communities in the country.

9 They were very open to the kind of
10 insights we were prepared to share with them.

11 We tried to make it available for many
12 of the primary active associations, civil
13 rights organizations, so they could be active
14 with what they wanted in the situation.

15 I thought that we made out very well.

16 In our after action report to FEMA there
17 are some areas we highlighted.

18 I would like to share a couple of them
19 with you.

20 One of the big criticisms and concerns,
21 that the county had with the federal process,
22 is that many of their needs were, essentially,
23 met but they weren't met in the timetable they

1 familiarity with the Dade County geographics
2 doing the assessment in Dade County, going out
3 with my team and three of us from the Miami
4 area, who knew the community.

5 What the county had to do was identify
6 their community action staff, to go out there
7 looking.

8 That is fine.

9 I thought we had the crisis response
10 team there. It would have created a better
11 opportunity and faster opportunity to get to
12 identify and to do assessment.

13 That is one of the missions.

14 We didn't have the benefit of that
15 particular team.

16 So it is one of my recommendations, I
17 would like to make to the county, I am going
18 to make to the county, in my recommendations
19 to the county, that in these types of
20 situations we use teams.

21 MR. BROWN: Interestingly enough it was
22 in the process of being reestablished and
23 essentially the presence of Andrew stopped it.

1 MR. BATTLES: Right.

2 At the state level one of the weaknesses
3 we identified was lack of bilingual staff.

4 When you go into the disaster centers
5 the state has a strong presence and we ended
6 up using a lot of our resources, our staff to
7 assist them.

8 It hurt us in other areas, in getting to
9 the community.

[State]

10 We suggested to the staff that they look
11 at their recruiting efforts and get some
12 bilingual personnel at the highest levels as
13 well as their reservists they bring in to
14 assist in these situations.

15 We have problems, for example, in
16 emergency food stamp operations.

17 That is clearly state run, a state-run
18 operation.

19 We had lines that started 4:00 o'clock
20 in the morning.

21 We had a lot of communication problems
22 with the victims in line getting, waiting for
23 the place to open up.

1 Stress levels were high.

2 Confrontation between the individuals
3 and the law enforcement and victims happened.
4 Had it not been for CRS teams out there there
5 would have been more problems.

6 We suggested to the state to bring on
7 some more people, a bilingual pool. That is
8 something we need to work on.

9 We were able to---

10 The only disaster application center
11 that was established outside of the South Dade
12 area, from Kendall on down, was in Little
13 Haiti.

14 That was the only other disaster
15 application center, I would suggest to you,
16 and I am sure there are several other
17 organizations who publicly expressed some
18 concern about that.

19 The absence of disaster application
20 centers, in other parts of the county, City of
21 Miami and North Dade area, was one of the big
22 concerns.

23 I know some of the other organizations

1 that have expressed to me the issue of
2 contract and awarding of contracting, that
3 whole process.

4 It seems to be an issue that is not
5 going away, from the county all the way up,
6 from FEMA on down.

7 That whole process started off with FEMA
8 identifying five or six prime contractors to
9 come in doing the debris removal.

10 The local officials express concern
11 about that.

12 They got into the situation of the prime
13 contractors were hiring subcontractors and not
14 hiring local and not giving preference to the
15 local business leaders and businessmen.

16 That generated a great deal of problems.

17 In one instance on that issue we were
18 able to bring in the truckers, local truckers
19 to FEMA and I would suggest, as a result of
20 that meeting, there was a serious, most
21 serious look at the whole process.

22 There are still some problems with
23 contractors.

1 The African American contractors have
2 expressed some concern about the way contracts
3 are awarded at all levels, city, county and
4 state level.

5 One of the recommendations I made to
6 FEMA, as it relates to that issue, is the
7 establishment of a business advisory committee
8 to them from local areas.

9 When these type of situations occur we
10 ought to identify the various groups, business
11 leaders, people who are familiar with the
12 industry, as well as the active civil rights
13 community who speak to these issues quite a
14 bit.

15 They are open to that concept.

16 Perhaps the next opportunity this issue
17 won't happen, it won't be played out this way.

18 Again, the issue of immigration was a
19 big concern.

20 Initially there was a lot of concern in
21 the South Dade area about what the Border
22 Patrol and INS was going to do, particularly
23 with the undocumented immigrant population.

1 We were able to allay some of those
2 fears by having our teams out there.

3 We weren't able to get clear directions
4 from INS on the position.

5 They just said, "Nobody is being
6 arrested. We won't arrest anyone."

7 But we had difficulty convincing a lot
8 of people, particularly the Mexican
9 population, because that is the majority of
10 the population that does work in the fields.

11 We thought that it was a very Haitian
12 population.

13 Initially our assessment was there were
14 over 4,000 Haitians undocumented, particularly
15 ones from Guantanamo, since we had at CRS we
16 had the primary responsibility for bringing
17 them in.

18 We were confident of those figures.

19 We were able to resettle some of the
20 Haitians out of the area, through our
21 volunteer system.

22 We were pleased with that effort.

23 Housing is a big problem throughout the

1 county.

2 HUD, as well as the civil rights
3 division within the Department of Justice and
4 Dade County Metro-Dade, the State Commission
5 on Human Relations established a task force to
6 deal with housing discrimination.

7 I don't think that is completed. They
8 are still here.

9 MR. BROWN: I am going to have to
10 interrupt just a moment.

11 I am going to apologize. I have a
12 flight that I have got to make.

13 I know that Bob will be here and we will
14 take all of the material you have got.

15 I will be reviewing it.

16 We will look at it, in terms of
17 inputting and output.

18 We did run a little long.

19 I think it was important we did.

20 It is one of the first times we got the
21 entire breadth of the representation from the
22 Asian community.

23 It is important to do that and not to

1 hear from one or two segments of the
2 community.

3 *W. Battler* → There is one other area I thought that
4 was very important. That is the volunteer
5 agency network.

6 The point agency for coordination and
7 assistance is the Red Cross.

8 We did have some organizations that
9 expressed some concerns about the Red Cross.

10 One of the things that I recommended to
11 FEMA is that the Red Cross be a little more
12 inclusive and be more proactive in identifying
13 and going out and getting other organizations
14 into the network.

15 We had organizations, churches and
16 groups going out there providing food, shelter
17 and assistance.

18 One of the reasons for that, they didn't
19 know how to access the Red Cross system to get
20 food, for their organization to get food for
21 the victims so they created their own.

22 We had food shipped in from all over the
23 country, the world.

1 A lot of times they couldn't get into
2 the disaster area and ended up on the side of
3 the road. [it]

4 The major distribution for the area was
5 in West Palm Beach.

6 The organizations wanted to send their
7 food and send their clothing and wanted to
8 come down and go into the disaster area.

9 Sometimes they weren't able to do that.

10 Transportation became a big problem.

11 I recommend to the Red Cross they do
12 training in a practical way bringing in other
13 organizations to train them in their process
14 when they have these major disasters.

15 They should be trained on how to access
16 the services and how to go get the food.

17 There is food still here.

18 Folks can still access basic needed
19 food.

20 There are warehouses stored full of food
21 but they need to be able to train and let
22 these organizations learn how to access this
23 stuff.

1 So I am making that recommendation to
2 the Red Cross.

3 It is a matter of expanding the network.

4 They had over 300 volunteer agencies,
5 local agencies who didn't access the system.

6 They were out there because they didn't
7 feel welcome in the loop of the Red Cross
8 system.

9 So they are doing their own thing.

10 In terms of training activities, when
11 you have a disaster of this magnitude FEMA had
12 to bring in various regions.

13 This region could not respond to this
14 alone, Region 4 out of Atlanta.

15 They had to bring in several regions
16 bringing in that type of resource.

17 We are talking about a whole lot of
18 diversities.

19 We had to spend some time training staff
20 about what was in Miami.

21 They were very open and receptive to
22 that.

23 We liked that.

1 In fact, as recently as two days ago we
2 trained 125 of FEMA employees in the
3 information system.

4 This is the basis, nucleus of FEMA's
5 operation.

6 These are the people at the computers
7 every day who process everybody's
8 applications.

9 We spent time with that entire unit a
10 couple of days ago.

11 FEMA was open to that process.

12 One of the lessons learned, from the
13 situation, FEMA's policies on providing
14 assistance is based on family size and based
15 on the income.

16 One of the problems in this situation,
17 we had to educate them to culture.

18 For example, in the Haitian culture to
19 have four or five families living in one house
20 is nothing unusual.

21 Well, what that simply meant was based
22 on FEMA's policies only one person was
23 eligible for assistance.

1 After we explained that to them in terms
2 of the culture they basically changed a lot of
3 their rules to accommodate that type of
4 scenario and living standards.

5 On the other hands, it created a lot of
6 duplication in applications.

7 They have a lot of problems in
8 duplicates.

9 Perhaps a lot of people waiting for
10 checks haven't gotten it and the reason is
11 many duplications.

12 We have identified a couple of Creole-
13 speaking people to sit with Team A task force
14 to work that out with the duplication of
15 applications.

16 A lot of checks were returned.

17 People still haven't gotten them.

18 Applications they gave initially had one
19 address and they were sent to that address.

20 Now they have moved some place else.

21 One of the things I think the entire
22 community who were victims, who received
23 checks basically did a disservice because a

1 lot of people got rental assistance, three
2 months rental and for a homeowner four months.

3 You have got to use the money for those
4 purposes.

5 A lot of people have gotten those checks
6 and have not spent it.

7 They have sent the money but they
8 haven't used it.

9 You are eligible for additional money if
10 you have spent the first set of money.

11 You are eligible for additional money
12 but if you won't go back or you haven't gone
13 back to get additional funding they don't
14 know.

15 Now everybody wants a trailer, mobile
16 home.

17 FEMA is trying to respond to that need.

18 We don't know--I want to say this: We
19 don't know how many people really need
20 trailers, in this community.

21 FEMA is prepared to buy what is
22 necessary, to get what is necessary but the
23 county can't tell them how many.

1 The state can't tell them how many.

2 They are left with a situation as people
3 come in to request a trailer, they are on a
4 waiting list now to get a trailer or a mobile
5 home.

6 One of the problems is, also, that the
7 regular mobile home and trailer parks, in
8 those there is so much devastation there the
9 debris removal cleaning up of those places in
10 the big trailer lots, it is a significant
11 issue.

12 Getting some place to put the trailers
13 is difficult.

14 They are getting them in their yards.

15 They have gone to that process.

16 We have a growing homeless population
17 again because of the situation.

18 We have the tent cities up.

19 Many of the politicians said we don't
20 want these tent cities up long so the tent
21 cities are down.

22 Many of the condemned buildings are
23 uninhabitable.

1 They are coming down.

2 We are creating a homeless population.

3 There is a likelihood they might have
4 tent cities up again to respond.

5 As a building is completed people will
6 move back in.

7 Those are the type things we are looking
8 at.

9 In addition, there is contracting.

10 FEMA is paying deposits on rental
11 properties now that they weren't paying a
12 couple of weeks ago, months ago.

13 Again, an effort to try to get some
14 assistance.

15 I think that is all I can share with you
16 right now, as it relates to that process.

17 From the CRS standpoint it has been a
18 big education for a lot of us.

19 Since the hurricane we haven't been able
20 to do work we wanted to do in the state on
21 racial problems and concerns.

22 I was able to participate and was sort
23 of instrumental in getting the state to

1 sponsor a series of contingency planning in
2 workshops, along with the Florida Department
3 of Law Enforcement.

4 We conducted eight in the state between
5 the months of August and the primary, combined
6 with law enforcement.

7 The second series involved local elected
8 officials and decision-makers.

9 They are into that.

10 They were in Fort Myers, Tampa, Miami,
11 eight different cities. Miami, Gainesville.

12 That is where we have those.

13 I would tell you to keep an eye on, of
14 course, the Lozano trial.

15 The judges have made the decision to go
16 back to Tallahassee.

17 I don't think that is a done deal.

18 That is an issue that was causing some
19 concern.

20 There are other cities that perhaps I
21 could share with you, bear your watching and
22 certainly the CRS' involvement.

23 I would like to share those with you.

1 I think that is all we have right now.

2 One of the things we are going to do, in
3 January, in conjunction with the United States
4 Attorney's office, is to convene a meeting of
5 civil rights leaders, law enforcement
6 officials and legal professionals and we are
7 going to do a day-and-a-half conference on
8 civil rights.

9 It is actually the process of
10 investigating civil rights complaints.

11 We are going to do that.

12 The agenda has basically been developed.

13 The co-hosts will be the CRS and the
14 United States Attorney together.

15 It is a two-day, day-and-a-half affair
16 here on local process of civil rights
17 investigations, what is involved, why it is so
18 difficult to prosecute and get convictions.

19 We have been busy.

20 The United States Attorney has been very
21 aggressive on that.

22 We have met.

23 He has established a special unit to

1 deal with civil rights investigations.

2 I think that is a first for the United
3 States Attorney's office to do that at that
4 level.

5 He is very aggressive about it.

6 So, again, it is one of his statements
7 that he wants to make to the community.

8 He is very serious and committed to that
9 type of issue.

10 In this community we have met with
11 leading organizations within this community
12 and we are prepared to meet with as many as we
13 need to meet with.

14 I think that is about it.

15 MR. BROWN: Thank you very much, Tom.

16 I have one question.

17 A number of people from this community
18 moved to Central Florida.

19 Some of that information was for price
20 gouging with landlords.

21 Do you have any statistics or
22 information?

23 We understand some people's rental

1 property went up 500 percent.

2 MR. BATTLES: Right. Without question.

3 MR. BROWN: I haven't heard anybody
4 talking about that.

5 MR. BATTLES: The FEMA internal
6 investigation unit is looking into a lot of
7 those issues.

8 When I get a complaint about a price
9 gouging we do a couple of things.

10 I share it with FEMA, with the local law
11 enforcement community here.

12 I send a team out there to try and
13 validate that situation.

14 The United States Attorney also is
15 looking into those types of things.

16 I haven't checked with them lately to
17 see what statistics they have.

18 Those issues are being looked into.

19 One of the things we could have done,
20 another one of the lessons learned, we didn't
21 do a lot of publishing about that.

22 We tried to get HUD to do it and EEOC to
23 do advertisement because we were so busy in

1 trying to solve problems and trying to explain
2 to people the FEMA process we wanted everybody
3 to apply for assistance even if you had
4 insurance.

5 A lot of people who had insurance didn't
6 apply.

7 They were told by FEMA, "You may be
8 eligible for our assistance.

9 "You have to exhaust everything with
10 your insurance company first."

11 They never said they wouldn't help you
12 if the insurance company didn't take care of
13 something.

14 They didn't say, "You can come back to
15 us and you may be eligible for it."

16 That is what happened.

17 A lot of people who did exhaust all of
18 their efforts with their insurance companies
19 but they didn't go back to FEMA.

20 Probably, we will probably ask FEMA to
21 extend the deadline for applications.

22 They probably will do it.

23 MR. DOCTOR: One quick question, I

1 guess, Tom.

2 This question may have come up in your
3 response to Harriet's question.

4 I am concerned about what appears to be
5 unscrupulous activities on the part of
6 insurance companies.

7 In connection with this particular
8 disaster have you found any evidence to
9 support the fact that insurance companies are
10 deliberately using any means necessary to
11 avoid payment?

12 MR. BATTLES: That is a good question.

13 To answer your question, no.

14 Again, that is one of the things I share
15 your concern about which is the regulation of
16 that industry.

17 We sort of thought that the state was
18 going to step in and the State Commissioner.

19 He was very aggressive early on in
20 giving these adjusters an opportunity to come
21 out and provide some assistance to the folks
22 right away and make sure they contact them
23 right away.

1 Somewhere down the line somebody dropped
2 the ball.

3 I am not sure what is happening right
4 now with that industry.

5 I am not sure what the state is doing.

6 There are some rumors the state is
7 running out of money in the fund.

8 I am not sure if that is what has
9 happened.

10 It is a challenge to me to go back and
11 see what is happening with that.

12 I will submit that to you if there is
13 something we can do with regard to that, in
14 terms of stronger enforcement at whatever
15 level, to stress that with the United States
16 government.

17 If there are insurance companies that
18 have not done what they should do, if somebody
19 could bring forth that type of information or
20 raise the questions that need to be raised I
21 will be happy to move that to whatever level
22 it needs to be brought to.

23 MR. DOCTOR: Very good.

1 One final comment: Charles P. Wang,
2 Vice Chair of the United States Commission on
3 Civil Rights---

4 Mr. Eng, I don't know if you know Mr.
5 Wang or not.

6 MR. ENG: Mr. Sears, our President, has
7 met Mr. Wang.

8 MR. DOCTOR: He has expressed a great
9 deal of interest about the plight of Asian
10 Americans, particularly here in the South
11 Florida area.

12 I can assure you that we are going to be
13 monitoring developments as it relates to the
14 various Asian communities with a great deal of
15 interest.

16 I also would like to add some years ago
17 I had the opportunity to meet a gentleman who
18 was talking about this country and how great.

19 He said, "In America you have the right
20 to protest for right."

21 I would like to emphasize that you not
22 only have the right but it appears to me you
23 have the obligation to do what is right for

1 your community.

2 I commend you for the steps that you all
3 have taken, up to this point.

4 I recommend that you continue taking
5 those steps.

6 It is very, very clear that power
7 responds to power.

8 There is a certain amount of power, I
9 think, embodied in shall we say activity that
10 is about the business of making sure and
11 guaranteeing the rights of Asian Americans.

12 So I would highly commend you, first of
13 all.

14 Secondly, I would suggest to you that
15 you keep on keeping on.

16 MR. ENG: Thank you. I will take your
17 words of advice back to the community.

18 (Thereupon, at 5:20 o'clock p.m. the
19 meeting was concluded.)

20

21

22

23

