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February 15, 2006 Wednesday

TYPE: NEWS EVENT

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HEADLINE: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI (D-CA) DELIVERS REMARKS ON HURRICANE **KATRINA** FOLLOWING DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING

SPEAKER:

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI (D-CA), HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER DELIVERS REMARKS ON HURRICANE **KATRINA** FOLLOWING DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MEETING, AS RELEASED BY REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI'S OFFICE

FEBRUARY 15, 2006

SPEAKER: U.S. REPRESENTATIVE NANCY PELOSI (D-CA),
HOUSE MINORITY LEADER

PELOSI: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to join you in commending our colleagues from the Gulf Coast for their great leadership on behalf of their constituents.

Katrina challenges the conscience of our country. The stories we have seen shared by Mr. Melancon today and at our issues conference, tear at the hearts of all who hear them.

So once again the Republicans have put out a one-sided review. Yes, they were critical of the White House - that was self-evident; that information was largely in the public domain. The report that was issued today is a Republican review of the White House. It could only go so far.

That is why we need an independent commission. Unless you use the power of subpoena to get the

documentation and the e-mails, we cannot fully understand everything that went wrong. And why is that important? It's important for the future.

The federal response to Katrina is a glaring example of the culture of corruption, cronyism and incompetence that has marked the Republican leadership in Washington D.C.

Many more lives were lost, livelihoods are gone, housing has disappeared, and schools are unserviceable to children because of the inadequacy of the response. We will not know the whole story until we have an independent commission look at it.

We want to go forward. Only open government and honest leadership will take us there, but in addition to that, we must immediately in the right way meet the housing needs, health care needs, education needs, and job needs of the people affected by Katrina and the other hurricanes.

We can only do this if we have it based on a foundation of honest leadership and open government. We haven't seen that yet.

END

NOTES:

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[--] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

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