 CREW - citizens for responsibility and ethics in washington

CREW Cuts

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CREW's Hurricane Katrina Report Exposes How the Government Ignored Its Own Gulf Coast Hurricane Plan

On June 27, CREW released a new report, *The Hurricane Katrina Best Laid Plans: The Story of How the Government Ignored Its Own Gulf Coast Hurricane Plans*, detailing FEMA's plan to respond to a hurricane of Katrina's magnitude and its subsequent failure to implement that plan.

Based on documents CREW obtained through a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security, CREW discovered that as early as 2000, FEMA began developing a comprehensive strategy - the Southeastern Louisiana Catastrophic Hurricane Plan ("SLCHP") - to respond to a hypothetical storm of Katrina's strength. The SLCHP included plans to evacuate residents and position resources pre-hurricane; provide power, water and ice to hurricane victims; and provide short-term shelter and longer-term temporary housing.


Inexplicably, the Department of Homeland Security disregarded the plan when faced with the devastation wrought by Katrina.

[Read more](#)

[Read RawStory's analysis of The Best Laid Plans](#)

Vice President Cheney: The Fourth Branch of Government?

Last month, it was revealed that Vice President Cheney has claimed that his office is not subject to an executive order governing the handling of classified information because, as president of the Senate, the vice president has both legislative and executive duties. Given that there is no fourth branch of government to which Mr. Cheney could belong, CREW suggested that if the Office of the Vice President is part of the Senate, it must be subject to Senate security procedures.

 [photograph of Richard Cheney](#)

The White House found Mr. Cheney's argument an "interesting constitutional question that people can debate" and said it is "a bit of a non-issue." CREW disagrees, there is no room for debate, the vice president is part of the executive branch and his failure to comply with procedures governing classified information is, in fact, a very serious matter.

[Read more](#)

[Read The Washington Post report on Vice](#)

New CREW Report Details Members' Use of Campaign Funds to Benefit Family

In light of several well-publicized cases of members of Congress using their positions to enrich their family members (i.e. John Doolittle (R-CA)), CREW undertook a study to uncover which House of Representatives committee and subcommittee chairmen and ranking members, as well as members of the leadership, have used their positions to financially benefit family members. The resulting report, *Family Affair*, includes 96 members from 33 states.

CREW discovered that 64 members have paid family members through their campaign committees or PACs, 24 have family members who are registered lobbyists, and 19 have used their campaign funds to pay a family business or a business that employs a family member. Even more egregious, 7 members used such funds to pay their college-age or younger children.

Based on the report, editorial writers across the country have condemned the practice of using campaign funds to pay family members. Click here to read editorials from *The Indianapolis Star*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Orlando Sentinel* and *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

[Read more](#)

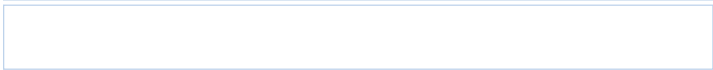
[Read USA Today's exclusive release of Family Affair](#)

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President Cheney



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