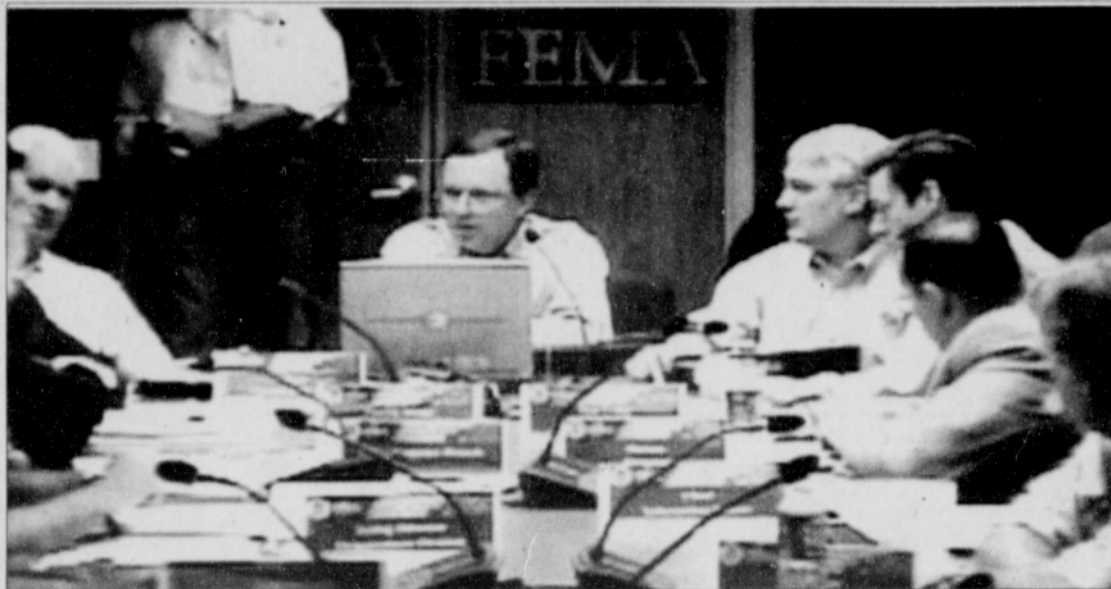


Video Shows Bush Knew of Risks to New Orleans Levees



A frame of government video obtained by The Associated Press shows then-Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Michael Brown on Aug. 28, taking part in a briefing of President Bush the day before Hurricane Katrina struck. (AP Photo)

(AP) — On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's fateful landfall, President Bush was confident. His homeland security chief appeared relaxed. Louisiana officials were heaping praise on the federal government.

And warnings of the coming destruction - breached or overrun levees, deaths at the New Orleans Superdome and overwhelming needs for post-storm rescues - were delivered in dramatic terms to all involved.

All of it was captured on videotape.

The Associated Press obtained the confidential government video and made it public last week, offering Americans their own inside glimpse into the government's fateful final Katrina preparations after months of fingerpointing and political recriminations.

"My gut tells me... this is a bad one and a big one," then-federal disaster chief Michael Brown told the final government-wide brief-

ing the day before Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29.

The video prompted Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill to reiterate their calls for a new investigation into the federal response to Katrina. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California said the video "points out the need for an independent commission" to review events surrounding the hurricane.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said the video "confirms what we have suspected all along, that this Administration did anything they can to hide what really happened." He said the administration "systematically misled the American people."

In the Aug. 29 briefing, Bush didn't ask a single question but assured soon-to-be-battered state officials: "We are fully prepared."

But Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., said the video shows that the administration failed to prepare adequately for the possible breach of

the levees protecting New Orleans.

"This administration was told what Louisiana already knew: that our federally constructed levees could certainly fail," she said. "But these concerns, and others made by disaster relief experts, fell on deaf ears."

The footage - along with seven days of transcripts of briefings obtained by AP - show in excruciating detail that while federal officials anticipated the tragedy that unfolded in New Orleans and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, they were fatally slow to realize they had not mustered enough resources to deal with the unprecedented disaster.

A top hurricane expert voiced "grave concerns" about the levees and Brown, then the Federal Emergency Management Agency chief, told the president and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff that he feared there weren't enough disaster teams to help evacuees at the Superdome.

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Baseball Mourns a Legend

Kirby Puckett dead at 45

(AP)—Kirby Puckett didn't need much time to make a big impact. Those who felt it, near and far, can only wish he had stayed around longer.

The bubbly Hall of Famer with the boyish enthusiasm for baseball, who led the Minnesota Twins to two World Series titles before his career was cut short by glaucoma, died Monday after a stroke. He was 45.

"He was revered throughout the country and will be remembered



Kirby Puckett led his team to two championships.

man Jeff Idelson said. Only Lou Gehrig, at 37, was younger.

Puckett led the Twins to championships in 1987 and 1991 after breaking into the majors in 1984. With a career batting average of .318, six Gold Gloves and 10 All-Star game appearances, Puckett woke up one morning during spring training in 1996 and never played again because of blindness in his right eye.

A makeshift memorial began to form Monday night outside the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minn., with a handful of bouquets, caps and candles laid on the sidewalk.

"I grew up in centerfield yelling down on him. It's just not right," said fan Daniel Boche, who knelt down to pay his respects. "He was my idol growing up."

"It's tough to take," Twins general manager Terry Ryan said from the team's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla.

wherever the game is played," commissioner Bud Selig said. "Kirby was taken from us much too soon - and too quickly."

Indeed, Puckett was the second-youngest person to die having already been enshrined at Cooperstown, Hall of Fame spokes-

Jackson 5 Drummer Killed

(AP)—Prosecutors said a woman told police she stabbed a former drummer for the Jackson 5 with a steak knife when he lunged at her during a fight.

Yolanda Davis, 44, was being held without bond on a charge of murder Monday. She is charged with killing Johnny Jackson, 54, of Gary, Ind. who was found dead March 1 in a Gary home. He replaced the Jackson 5's original drummer Milford Hite around 1967, but reports conflict on whether he was related to Gary's

legendary Jackson family, which includes pop stars Michael and Janet.

He grew up a few blocks from the Jackson family and had made a name for himself as a drumming prodigy before he started high school, said Gordon Keith, who has sued Jackson family members over the rights to their early recordings with his Steeltown Records.

"He was a show drummer," Keith recalled. "There were times that he would outshine Michael at their shows."



BlackBerry email devices will continue to operate after a settlement in a patent lawsuit.

BlackBerrys to Stay On

(AP) — The maker of the BlackBerry e-mail device has settled its long-running patent dispute with a small Virginia-based firm, averting a possible court-ordered shutdown of the BlackBerry system.

Research in Motion, Ltd., will cough up \$612 million in a "full and final settlement of all claims," the companies said.

The settlement ends a period of anxiety for many of the more than 3 million BlackBerry users in the United States. Uncertainty over the

outcome had some customers wondering whether they would experience brief outages or even a shutdown.

"I'm relieved," said Matt Lattman, a management consultant in Boston. "I've had it for about a year, and at this point, I can't imagine life without it."

BlackBerry officials had assured users it had developed new software to work around patents. But because few details were released, analysts and some corporations expressed concerns.

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