

# NEWS

## Jackson's Water Crisis

BY DEVIN GRAY

**W**ATER IS A VERY essential part of daily life. That being said, it is not always as accessible and easy to obtain as other common resources. Unfortunately, another situation has risen where water access might not be as easy to obtain.

Recently in Jackson, Mississippi, the water supply has been tainted due to historic rain that flooded the Pearl River, a key place for the water treatment plant. One would think this would do good, but in reality, it ruined the capital's water as the plant was no longer able to keep up. This also caused a severe drop in water pressure. Over 150,000 were left without safe drinking water, and to add to the trouble, the city is also suffering from a water boil notice.

Experts are saying that what happened in Jackson may only be the beginning of a truly hard time considering that most towns in places like Mississippi are just

not ready for climate change and the effects it could have on the infrastructure of a town. As shown before, southern water systems are quite fragile, as they are not meant for extreme weather conditions. A similar situation happened in Texas awhile back, as most of the state's water supply froze within their systems. This isn't just for water either, some states are so unprepared for extreme weather, that even the power systems are ready to go out, even when the temperatures are something most northern states and citizens are used to. Most experts believe the systems used are decades old and unfortunately neglected as well. A study in 2020 suggests that over \$2.2 trillion dollars are needed to be invested over the next two decades for this problem to be solved. Most of it comes from the federal government. Most cities have already been adapting. Back in 2000-2001, central and south Florida

experienced a 100-year drought that damaged their water supply and placed the public in critical condition. This drought pushed the region to find diverse solutions.

The water crisis has caused many to change their lifestyle. In a matter of days, the water started turning brown. However, this hasn't only been going on in Jackson. Other majority minority locations, like Mississippi towns, have been suffering from similar problems with no signs of it getting better. This problem also occurred in different forms over the years in the infamous story of Flint, Michigan and their pipes. Generally, America has a serious problem with the water supply. And taking just a little bit of time to end the ongoing problem will do wondrous things for the neighborhoods who have to suffer through it.

## Liz Truss Takes Over as Prime Minister

BY KALI FOLLAND

**L**IZ TRUSS TOOK OVER the title as U.K. Prime Minister at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. She was formally asked by Queen Elizabeth II to form a new government during a ceremony dictated by tradition, taking over from Boris Johnson, the previous Prime Minister.

Truss, 47, was appointed after winning a Conservative Party election that led the Tories. This is the third female conservative Prime Minister after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May. Immediately making her mark, she cleared out ministers from the previous administration under Johnson, making Kwasi Kwarteng her Treasury Chief. Kwarteng is the first black holder of the job whose formal title is Chancellor of the Exchequer. An ally of the new Prime Minister, Therese Coffey became the first female deputy prime minister and also leads the health ministry.

Standing on a rain-soaked Downing Street in London, Truss outlined an ambitious plan to cut taxes and boost growth in their economy. She automatically became Prime Minister without a general election due to Conservatives still having a majority in the House of Commons. Although Truss is a national leader selected by less than 0.5% of British Adults,

she is under pressure to show quick results. Food and energy prices on the rise, driven by the invasion of Ukraine and the aftermath of COVID-19 and Brexit, have projected the U.K. inflation by ten percent for the first time in four decades. Truss plans for a limit on energy bills that will cost taxpayers 100 billion pounds (116 billion dollars).

During the first session of questions as Prime Minister, she set out a plan of immediate help with the energy bills crisis so that people are able to get through the winter. And will proceed to add measures to support the U.K.'s long-term energy security.

She is pressured to explain how she plans to help consumers pay household energy bills that are set to 3,500 pounds (\$4,000), the cost has tripled in a year. According to the Bank of England, it has been forecasted that inflation will go up to 13.3% by October. Then the U.K. will go into prolonged recession by the end of the year. While Truss says her priority is to cut taxes and remove regulations to promote

economic growth, critics say that it will only fuel further inflation while not addressing the energy bill crisis. The value of the pound has decreased below \$1.14 and hasn't been that weak since the 1980s. Truss has also promised to increase the U.K.'s funding on defense to 3%. Another expensive promise. Truss also has an uncompromising stance as foreign secretary over the trade rules with Northern Ireland. The EU launching legal action in response to the U.K. threatening to breach the legally binding divorce treaty could escalate into a trade war.

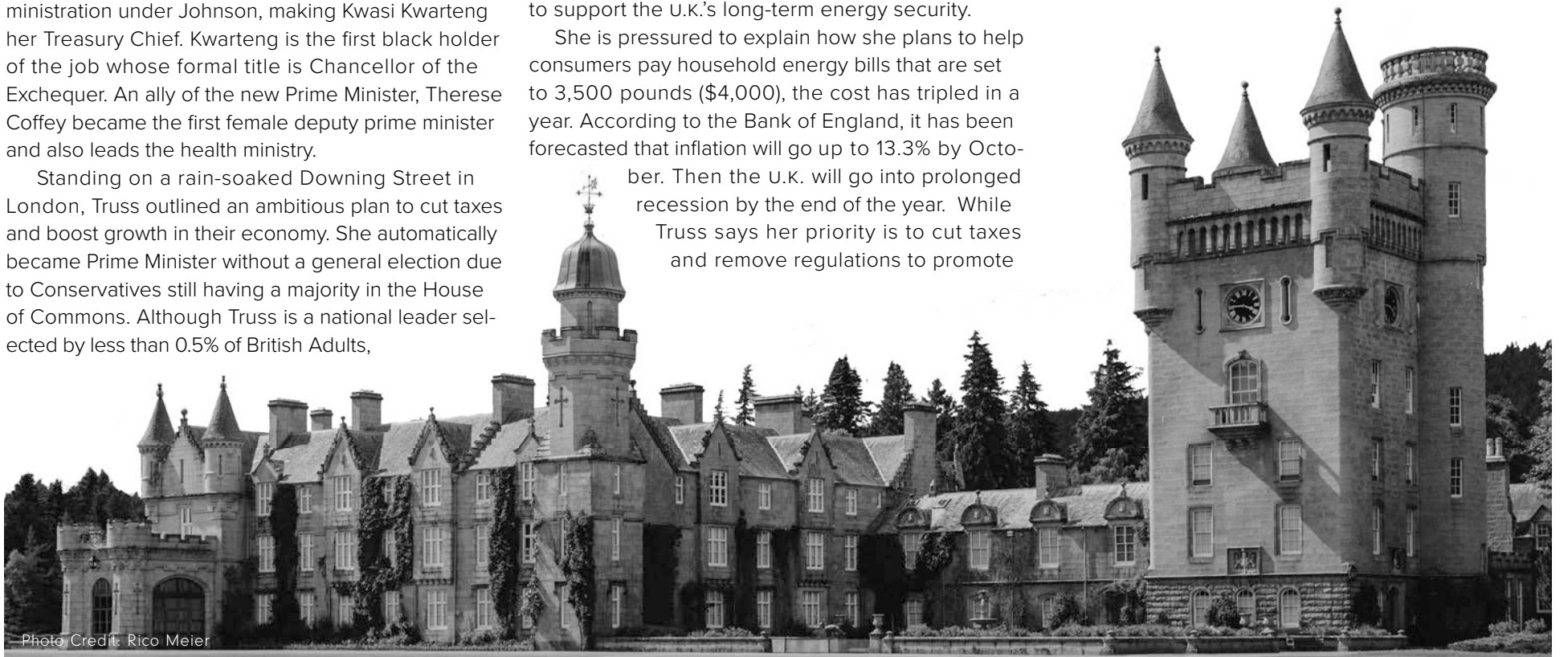


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