

Farrakhan: Help selves

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they have agreed with the agenda of the Millions More Movement," he said. "They said that they are going to be on the ground, planning before the march and the mobilization. More importantly, they want to be involved in the efforts afterwards, in making sure that what we've planned is actually implemented."

Farrakhan criticized the U.S. government, Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency for delayed responses to the devastation of the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina. However, he said, black Americans must help each other.

"I think that the power of Katrina has showed us that while there are things the government should and must do to preserve and protect the tax payers and the citizens of this country," he said. "(African-Americans) also have a

responsibility to rely on ourselves, our talents, our abilities and the monies that God has allowed us to gain out of this economy. We should be in position to pull those resources to help ourselves and our people."

Farrakhan said the suffering of blacks is the common

denominator to bring Americans together.

"No one leader and organization is strong enough to handle all of the problems of our people," he said. "But our unity, pooling our resources intellectually and financially will enable us to solve 95 percent of our problems."

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Justice

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to make an impartial assessment of him as a person and to talk to him about particular concerns we had about his record on issues of great importance to the African American community, including civil rights, justice, equality and affirmative action," Watt said in a statement. "We especially wanted to hear from him firsthand about the stance he has taken on affirmative action and about his efforts to limit the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act when the Act was last renewed."

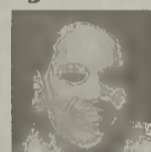
Although Roberts passed on a meeting, Watt said the caucus will continue to monitor the hearings, in which Roberts is widely believed to be confirmed.

"The ... Caucus will still make every effort to assess Judge Roberts' nomination fairly, but we will certainly have to consider his refusal to meet with representatives of our important constituency a substantial mark against him in our evaluation," Watt said.

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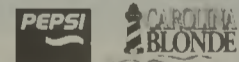
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