

LED BY REP. MEL WATT, D-N.C.

Caucus opposes Roberts

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We especially need clarification concerning John Roberts' repeated attempts to narrow and limit the effectiveness of the 1965 Voting Rights Act when the Act was last renewed, and an explanation concerning whether he still opposes affirmative action," Watt said.

Vivian Berryhill, founder of national Coalition of Pastors Spouses, a black conservative group, counters that the CBC has misinterpreted Roberts' qualifications.

"Judge Roberts' record has not been fully studied nor understood by this body of legislators," she said. "While their intentions are good, careful reading of his past

writings make it clear he is more than qualified for the position of Chief Justice.

"We are pleased that most of the questions we submitted were asked by various members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, we were very disappointed that Judge Roberts chose to avoid responding to the questions concerning civil rights. Instead of explaining his views on civil rights or indicating any changes, Judge Roberts chose to avoid answering these questions. His evasive responses mainly focused on his youth as a

lawyer at the time and his claim to have been only a staff lawyer, when in fact throughout his service, Judge Roberts often advised and recommended presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush on administration policy and strategic approaches to civil rights matters, not legal issues or language. His responses only heightened our concerns.

"Judge Roberts' dexterous display of restraint was applauded by many, who were left appreciating his overall posture and presentation," Berryhill said. "His per-

formance demonstrates why President Bush nominated him, and why his immediate confirmation is warranted."

Until Roberts is confirmed - which President Bush wants by Oct. 3 when the Supreme Court convenes - the CBC will hold out for his defeat.

"Service as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is far too critical to people of color to leave these critical concerns unanswered," Watt said. "Therefore, the CBC strongly opposes the confirmation of Judge Roberts and urges all Senators to oppose his nomination."

Seminar on men, families

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Over the years Touch has worked with the Urban League, Los Angeles Department of Justice, Charlotte's 100 Black Men and U.S. Department of Education. Manning is also the author of "Marzetta Stood in for Mama," "Daddy was a Big Man" and "The Be Attitudes of Parenting"

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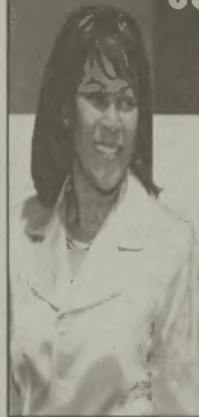
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