

in the meantime, the country can be assured that I'll take a good, long look at who should replace Justice O'Connor. I called her from Air Force One yesterday and told her of my decision to name John Roberts to be the Chief. And her first reaction was that she better get back to doing her homework, and she said so somewhat tongue-in-cheek, but she's right, she'll be there when the Court is seated with a new Chief Justice. And then we'll move deliberately to replace Justice O'Connor.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:08 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chief Justice-Designate John G. Roberts, Jr.; and Mayor Tommy Longo of Waveland, MS. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With National Voluntary Organizations Representatives

September 6, 2005

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts

Listen, I want to thank leaders of the—in the faith—faith-based and community-based community for being here. We've got people who represent thousands of volunteers who are in the midst of helping save lives.

You know, there's a debate here about refugees. Let me tell you my attitude and the attitude of people around this table. The people we're talking about are not refugees; they are Americans. And they need the help and love and compassion of our fellow citizens. And the people at this table are providing that help and compassion and love.

If you want to help, support the Red Cross or the Salvation Army or your church or the United Way. Houston, for example, is going to kick off a United Way campaign, and that money is going to help with the costs of the displaced persons inside of Houston. So please give cash money to organizations that are directly involved in helping save lives—save the lives that have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

We have spent time talking about how we can make sure we continue progress, make sure people get—not only continue to get the affection and love of people in the private sector, but also to make sure that the Government gets people their Social Security checks or their veterans benefits checks, the checks that—unemployment checks. And we'll do that. We'll do that.

Out of the darkness will come some light, and the light I saw yesterday at the program in Baton Rouge with T.D. Jakes was so apparent to me. And it's based upon the fact that we've got citizens who are willing to take time to love somebody like they would like to be loved themselves, welcome a stranger in their midst. And for those of you who have done that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You're a part of the strength of this country. You're what makes America a great place.

In the meantime, we'll continue to work together to do our duty and to help our citizens who hurt and help this great part of the country rebuild.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Bishop Thomas D. Jakes, chief executive officer, The Potter's House of Dallas, Inc., Dallas, TX.

Remarks on Efforts To Assist Students and School Districts Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

September 6, 2005

The President. Laura and I just had a good visit with Secretary of Education Spellings and her team about the—about the school children who have been displaced because of Hurricane Katrina. You know, this is a time when a lot of families are looking forward to sending their child back to school, and their children are excited about school. But a lot of those dreams and a lot of that excitement has been upset for a lot of students because of the storm.

Yesterday we went to a shelter in Baton Rouge and met a lot of little kids, many of whom are starting school in Baton Rouge. And it's indicative of what's taking place