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Of Scrooges and Hypocrites

Posted by **Bobby Eberle**

December 22, 2005 at 6:44 am

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Within only a few days following initial landfall of Hurricane Katrina back in August, President Bush was being criticized by groups like the Congressional Black Caucus for the slow response of the federal government in delivering relief to the area. Funds were needed now, the groups would say, adding that the lack of urgency was "insensitive" and racially motivated. Now, it appears that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus are not only Christmas "Scrooges" but hypocrites as well.

As is being reported in **Bush-Bashing Black Charity Sits on Katrina Cash**, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, which was critical of President Bush, has "yet to spend any of the estimated \$400,000 that it raised for the victims of the Aug. 29 storm."



"We are collecting all the way up through the very end of the year and then our board has set aside a committee who is going to administer the funds," Patty Rice, spokeswoman for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), told Cybercast News Service on Wednesday. The Foundation is an offshoot of the Congressional Black Caucus and was founded in 1976.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus were some of the more vocal critics of President Bush and the federal government in the aftermath of Katrina. As noted in

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the news story, Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL) said four days after Katrina made landfall, "We have witnessed something shockingly awful and that is the lack of response, the quick response, from our government to those Americans who are suffering [and] who are dying."



U.S. Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-Mich.), also present at the Congressional Black Caucus' Sept. 2 news conference, declared that she was "ashamed of America."

"I'm ashamed of our government. We don't want another Iraq, where the money just goes off somewhere. This is real human need. And I'm outraged by the lack of response from our federal government," Kilpatrick said.

After the dust has settled on all the rhetoric, where do things really stand? New Orleans is coming back to life. Thousands upon thousands of people received shelter in places like Houston, Texas. Aid and financial relief were provided through numerous charities and government programs. So... What has the Congressional Black Caucus done? Absolutely nothing.

First, back on September 21, reporters were told that the Congressional Black Caucus Fund "had already received \$700,000 in corporate pledges." However, as CNSNews.com reports today, the figure was greatly exaggerated.



But on Wednesday, exactly three months after the news conference launching the CBCF relief fund, Rice told Cybercast News Service that the Foundation has actually raised "somewhere in the neighborhood of \$350 to \$400,000." She added that the distribution of the money would not begin until January or February of 2006 at the earliest.

It seems to me that if any group should be accused of insensitivity and playing politics, it is this one. They criticize for slow response, yet none of their money has even been used. They bash the president for insensitivity, yet how insensitive is it to hold onto relief money when hurricane victims are suffering? The "Scrooges" at the Congressional Black Caucus are the ones who should be ashamed.

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