

Congressman apologizes for racist remark

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A Louisiana congressman apologized last Thursday after coming under fire from Arab-Americans for saying anyone with "a diaper on his head" should be stopped and questioned. Republican Rep. John Cooksey, who is planning to run for Senate next year, made the comment last week in a radio interview broadcast statewide. "If I see someone come in and he's got a diaper on his head and a fan belt around that diaper on his head, that guy needs to be pulled over and checked," Cooksey said.

Ziad Asali, president of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, called Cooksey's remark "very unfortunate." Last Thursday, Cooksey issued a statement, saying, "The man I had on my mind was Osama bin Laden and I never intended to disparage loyal Americans of Arab descent." But the congressman went on to say that extra scrutiny is necessary, and that a war on terrorism cannot be won "if we have to stop every five minutes to make sure we're being politically correct."

Busing

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in resources," car salesman Terry Belk, one of the parents involved in the litigation, told the court. "We have to bus the kids to where the resources are."

The school board said much had been accomplished, but more needed to be done. Griffin said the district was building new schools in the predominantly black central city and was committed to improving facilities, supplies and teaching quality.

But a lawyer for white families told the judges that the plan was outdated and didn't take into account rapid growth in largely white suburbs around Charlotte.

The case reached the appeals court after a Charlotte-based federal judge ruled in the white parents' lawsuit that the school system had achieved the goals of racial balance.

A three-judge panel of the appeals court agreed with black families and the school system on appeal and reversed the judge. The white families appealed that ruling to the full appeals court.

Veterans

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is responsible, we should kill him before he kills us. He killed thousands and he can kill thousands more if he is not killed. He is a death machine and his whole purpose is just to kill. How can we allow this to happen?"

A 73-year-old Black employee of Walter Reed Army Medical Center also in Northwest Washington also compared the attacks last week to the attack on Pearl Harbor because they both were sneak attacks.

But she's skeptical about going after bin Laden.

"The only similar thing between Pearl Harbor and

this attack is that they were all sneak attacks," she said. "We knew the people who bombed Pearl Harbor, but we don't know those behind these crashes. As a Black woman, I know Osama bin Laden is bad, thinking about the bombs in Africa in 1998. But I also know that as a Black person, we have for many years borne the backlash of suspicion only to discover that someone else did it. I am not assuming anything until it is proven that Osama bin Laden really did it."

Sam Doku and Sonsyrea Tate write for *The Washington Informer*

Refugees

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Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. Police in the area are currently engaged in an operation to collect illegally owned guns.

Kagera regional police commander Ignatius Mbinga told the touring government delegation an average of 30 locally made guns were being surrendered every day in Birahamulo district alone.

Meanwhile, the Kigoma regional Police Commander Boniface Mgongolwa, told PANA that the influx of refugees in Tanzania had undermined peace and stability in his area on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

"Some refugees have entered our country with sophisticated weapons thereby sparking an upsurge of crime in the host communities," he said.

Law enforcement officials in both Kagera and Kigoma regions reported an increase in highway robberies and armed banditry on Lake Tanganyika. Recently, an armed group suspected to be from Burundi attacked a Tanzanian boat that was sailing to Lake Tanganyika from Bujumbura to Kigoma port in Tanzania.

Meanwhile, senior Tanzanian police officers visited Rwanda recently for discussions with government authorities in Kigali on the problems being caused by refugees. The Tanzanian Inspector General of Police, Omari Mahita, said the two sides discussed possibilities of repatriating the Rwandan refugees since the situation in Rwanda is now calm.

"The Rwandans can now go back to their home country since peace prevails there. We are deeply concerned with the effects of harboring these people (refugees) as they have become a thorn in the flesh," he said.

Overstreet

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engaged in by the United States, throughout its history, I bet the question now on your minds is: what are the similarities and differences between the wars fought by the United States during the 20th Century where race was not the precipitating factor?

To my memory there were five such wars, namely: WWI, WWII, the Korean, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf wars. If you are the "scorekeeper" type, we enjoyed three victories, one draw and a defeat.

The similarities in the victories in WWI, WWII and the Persian Gulf wars were that the enemies were known and the objectives were clear. The draw in the Korean War was the

result of the enemy being known but the objective unclear.

The objective of "stopping the spread of communism" on some small peninsula half a world away did not resonant in the minds of Americans as a clear and present danger to our way of life. Our defeat in Vietnam was the result of not knowing who the enemy was during the day or night. Also, the objective we wanted to achieve was never clearly defined for the American people.

Now, let's revisit the question, how will religion (race) color our nation's response to terrorism as a clear and present danger to our way of life?

Since the enemies are known (terrorists)

and the objective (revenge) is clear, then, scorekeepers, a successful outcome is a sure bet, regardless of whether religion (race) is a factor. Here is why this will be the case.

The United States is a pluralistic, patriotic, militaristic and capitalistic society. Thus,

when you cause such a society the loss of thousands of the lives of its citizens, and nearly 1.5 trillion dollars of its wealth in one week, this is a guaranteed recipe for terrorists to "get their asses kicked big-time!"

Mr. Bin Laden is a "dead man walking."

Bush

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during his presidential campaign.

Despite precise, measured and forceful statements from Secretary of State Colin Powell and Vice President Dick Cheney, Bush seems to be seeking to prove his manhood.

Some of the blame could be laid at the feet of his presidential advisers who have gone out of their way to show Bush is in full control of this national emergency.

Presidential aides were reportedly working overtime to dispel the notion that the president was missing-in-action in the hours after the attacks when Air Force One couldn't immediately return to Washington by portraying him as desperately wanting to return to the nation's capital.

But regardless of what his aides may be telling him, the buck stops with the president and he should be sticking to his initial comments without adding fuel to this already smoldering fire. Take a look at all of the radio and television talk shows and you will find your fill of tough talk from folks who are out for blood.

The U.S. is at war and the President of the United States is conjuring up thoughts of an old West poster stating, "Wanted dead or alive." Is this what we really need at this

junction?

Americans are clearly hurt, angry and highly ticked off at what has happened. Polls show more than 90 percent approve of the president's job during this crisis and 80-plus percent support attacking terrorists with military strikes. But this is an extremely sensitive and delicate situation.

No one knows if the terrorists have other attacks planned, and efforts are still being made to recover bodies. Also, America has to walk a tightrope in getting complete cooperation from the international community to track down and cut off the funding to bin Laden and his terrorist network. The last thing we need is a president who has taken on a smug attitude and acts like a cowboy running amok on the range.

Mr. President, you are the face of America. You are the one person who represents the attitudes that so many are forming about the United States right now. We ask of you-no, we demand of you-to show strength, humility and focus in this time of crisis.

"Wanted dead or alive" is a cheap attempt at showing your manhood and exhibiting strength. You don't have to prove your manhood. You are, despite anger stemming from the presidential election, the president of the United States.

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