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Congressman Denies Bribery Charge

Calls office search 'outrageous intrusion'

(AP) - A congressman under eotape or other deinvestigation for bribery says he tails alleged in an will not resign in the face of allegations that he was videotaped ac- sented to a judge cepting \$100,000 from an informant, as evidence for a telling reporters, "There are certainly two sides to this story."

Meanwhile, Democratic Rep. night and Sunday. William Jefferson, called an FBI search of his Capitol office "an eight-term conoutrageous intrusion."

The FBI revealed Sunday that turned 59 in March, Jefferson was videotaped accept- maintained his ining \$100,000 in \$100 bills from an nocence and said FBI informant. Agents later found he plans to conthe cash hidden in a freezer, accord- tinue voting in the ing to court documents.

Asked if he took a bribe, run for re-election, Jefferson declined to answer. He but that's a matter also declined to talk about the vid-

FBI affidavit prewarrant to search his office Saturday

Jefferson, an gressman who House. "I expect to that's down the road," he said.

his Capitol Hill office "an outra- office being searched. geous intrusion into separation of branch, and no one has seen this in concerns raised about FBI agents all the time of the life of the Con- raiding a congressional office.



Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., makes a statement upon his arrival at Washington's National Airport, Monday, May 22, 2006. (AP photo)

A historian with the Senate Historical Office said there is no record He called the weekend search of of any member's congressional

powers between the executive Gonzales, asked about the Jefferson of a business deal in that country, branch and the congressional search, said he understands the

usual steps that were taken in response to an unusual set of circumstances," Gonzales said.

The search warrant affidavit spells out special procedures put in place to ensure the search did not infringe on privileged material. The procedures include use of a "filter team" of prosecutors and FBI agents unconnected to the investigation. They would review any seized items or documents and determine whether the documents are privileged and therefore immune from the search

If the status of a document is in doubt, the filter team will give the documents to a judge for a definitive ruling before giving them to case prosecutors, according to the

The government says Jefferson received the money in a leather briefcase last July 30 at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Arlington, Va. The plan was for Jefferson to use the cash to bribe a high-ranking Nige-Attorney General Alberto rian official to ensure the success the 100-page affidavit said.

All but \$10,000 was recovered Aug. 3, when the FBI searched "I will admit that these were un- Jefferson's home in Washington.

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Nagin Re-elected; Calls for Unity

(AP) - Newly re-elected New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin expressed confidence that political opponents and business leaders would unite to rebuild his hurricane-stricken city.

"We're going to bring this city together. It's my intention to reach out to every segment of this community," Nagin said Sunday, a day after defeating Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu.

Nagin said he plans to put together a commission to decide on action in the next 100 days. Debris removal and housing will be top priorities.

The former cable television executive dismissed threats by some business people who supported Landrieu and said they would leave if Nagin remained in office.

"Business people are predators, and if the economic opportunities are here, they're going to stay. If not, they are going to leave," said Nagin, in his now-famous vernacular. "I think there's enough interest around the country that we're going to attract top businesses ... God bless them. I hope they stay but if they don't, I'll send them a postcard."

Nagin said he has spoken with Gov. Kathleen Blanco and President Bush, reiterating his desire to work together.

Nagin said he pressed Bush to help accelerate



New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin attends a Mass at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in New Orleans on Sunday, the day after his re-election. (AP photo)

the rebuilding process and to aid with removal of the debris. He also questioned the pending end of federal aid for some evacuees still living in Houston and other cities.

Oregon Soldiers Deployed to Mid-East

Brigade to train Afghanistan army

In a military ceremony at Camp Shelby, Miss., Gov. Ted Kulongoski deployed the nearly 1,000 soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan can tell you that we will not only Monday, marking the largest miss their talent and dedication, overseas deployment of the Or- we will miss their fighting spirit-

tary during the year-long ployed to Louisiana for nearly two months in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, where it assisted with relief efforts.

egon Guard since World War II. the same spirit with which they As part of Operation Endur- volunteered to serve in the Guard ing Freedom, the combat team and risk their lives in the defense will help train Afghanistan's mili- of our nation," Kulongoski said.

"I want everyone who is part deployment. The same unit de- of this mission to know that you take with you my thanks, my deep appreciation, and my prayers. I will not sleep easy until you are all back home and in "As the 41st undertakes this the loving arms of your families long and difficult deployment, I and communities."

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Republicans Pushed NAACP Probe

(AP) - Several Republican among dozens into the activimembers of Congress for- ties of tax-exempt groups durwarded constituents' letters to ing the 2004 election season. the Internal Revenue Service into political advocacy, a potential violation of the civil rights group's tax-exempt status, according to documents released by the NAACP.

The IRS began looking into the NAACP about a month before the 2004 presidential election after a speech by its Chairman Julian Bond that was largely critical of President Bush's poli-

Political campaigning is prohibited under the NAACP's taxexempt status. The IRS said its inquiry would focus on whether Bond's speech was too political, and that the investigation is All are Republicans.

The NAACP received more claiming the NAACP had veered than 500 pages of documents the IRS has gathered to begin its inquiry and posted them on its Web site. The group had made requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

> The documents include letters that members of Congress sent to the IRS on behalf of their constituents. The lawmakers include Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Susan M. Collins of Maine, Rep. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia, the late Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina and former Reps. Larry Combest of Texas and Joe Scarborough of Florida.