

'Islamic Fascists' Phrase Disputed

(AP) — Democratic Sen. Russ Feingold called on President Bush to refrain from using the phrase "Islamic fascists," saying it was offensive to Muslims and has nothing to do with global terrorists fighting the United States.

"We must avoid using misleading and offensive terms that link Islam with those who subvert this great religion or who distort its teachings to justify terrorist activities," Feingold said Tuesday in a speech to the Arab American Institute on Capitol Hill.

The Wisconsin senator, a potential 2008 presidential candidate, said the label "Islamic fascists" makes no sense and doesn't help the U.S. effort to combat terrorism.

"Fascist ideology doesn't have anything to do with the way global terrorist networks think or operate, and it doesn't have anything to do with the overwhelming majority of Muslims around the world who practice the peaceful teachings of Islam," Feingold said.

Iraq War Defended in TV Address

Kennedy says Bush should be ashamed

President Bush, in a prime-time address from the Oval Office on the five-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, staunchly defended the war in Iraq even though he acknowledged that Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

He said Saddam's regime, while lacking weapons of mass destruction, was a clear threat that posed "a risk the world could not afford to take." At least 2,666 U.S. servicemen and women have died in Iraq.

"Whatever mistakes have been made in Iraq, the worst mistake would be to think that if we pulled out, the terrorists would leave us alone," the president said. "They will not leave us alone. They will follow us."

Hijacked planes used as missiles on Sept. 11, 2001 destroyed the World Trade Center towers in



President Bush addresses the nation. (AP photo)

New York and a wing of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Another plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

The attacks thrust the United States into a costly and unfinished war against terror and awakened the world to bin Laden, an exiled Saudi Arabian, and his band of al-Qaida terrorists.

Bin Laden, the reputed mastermind of the attack, and other terrorists are still in hiding, presumably in the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Still, Bush calls Iraq the central

front in the war on terrorism.

"The safety of America depends on the outcome of the battle in the streets of Baghdad," the president said. He quoted bin Laden as calling Iraq "the Third World War."

Some leading Democrats say President Bush shouldn't have used the memory of the 9-11 attacks to defend the Iraq war.

Sen. Ted Kennedy says outright that Bush "should be ashamed" of giving a speech that "had nothing to do with 9-11." The veteran Massachusetts lawmaker says the anniversary wasn't the time to debate the president's Iraq policy.

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Oregon Soldiers Die in Fighting

Three soldiers with Oregon connections have been killed in recent days in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Nathaniel Brad Lindsey was on patrol Saturday afternoon north of Kandahar province when his patrol group came under attack.

On Friday, Sgt. Robert Paul of The Dalles, and Sgt. 1st Class Meredith Howard of Alameda, California were



Sgt. Robert Paul

killed. Howard had been assigned to a Portland-based Civil Affairs Brigade before being reassigned to the Fort Bragg unit.

The two were riding in their Humvee in Kabul when an improvised explosive device blew up near it, killing both.

In his civilian occupation, Paul was a planner for Wasco County. One of his surviving sisters lives in Portland.

Schwarzenegger Apologizes

(AP) -- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger apologized Friday for saying during a closed-door meeting that Cubans and Puerto Ricans are naturally feisty and temperamental because of their combination of "black blood" and "Latino blood."

He said the tape-recorded comments "made me cringe" when he read them in Friday's Los Angeles Times.

"Anyone out there that feels offended by those comments, I just want to say I'm sorry, I apologize," Schwarzenegger said.

The statements were captured on a six-minute tape made during a March 3 speechwriting session between Schwarzenegger and his advisers. On it, Schwarzenegger and chief of staff Susan Kennedy speak affectionately of state Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia and speculate about her nationality.

"I mean Cuban, Puerto Rican, they are all very hot," the governor said. "They have the, you know, part of the black blood in them and part of the Latino blood in them that together makes it."

HIV/AIDS Tests in Prisons Wanted

U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters has proposed mandatory HIV/AIDS testing for inmates entering a federal prison facility and again upon their release.

The California Democrat and member of the Congressional Black Caucus introduced legislation Thursday to help curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community -- a trend that has been largely ignored by a majority of U.S. policy makers, elected officials, and civil rights leaders.

"Negative attitudes toward and the stigma associated with mandatory testing

are obsolete and pose a potentially lethal health risk, specifically to African Americans," said Rep. Waters. "The United States must start looking at mandatory testing in the context of prevention. We cannot allow the fear and ignorance rooted in a 25-year-old mindset to slow aggressive efforts to halt the progress of this disease."

Although black Americans make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, they account for 50 percent of the new HIV/AIDS cases. African-American women make up nearly 70 percent of all new AIDS cases among women.



Rep. Diane Rosenbaum, Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, Rep. Chip Shields

Taking Charge: The Future of Energy in Oregon

Join State Representatives Diane Rosenbaum, Jackie Dingfelder, and Chip Shields for a discussion of energy issues in Oregon. We will cover several energy topics and have a panel of experts to address your concerns. Plenty of time has been reserved for questions, so please plan to attend.

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Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Place: Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th Ave., Portland

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Questions? Please call 503-493-4411

Don't miss this chance to share your views with your legislators!