
From: American Land Rights Association [alra@pacifier.com]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2007 4:14 PM
To: PAUL PALAGYI
Subject: 45,600 Google Hits on Minneapolis St Paul Airport Boycott

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45,600 Google Hits on Minneapolis St Paul Airport Boycott.

We hit just about every press outlet. Wow.

-----See the New York Times article below about how Senator Larry Craig was treated more harshly than others at the Minneapolis St Paul Airport.

-----See how the Constitution forbids the arrest of Senators on their way to and from Congress. You want to go to Article I, Section 6.

-----Constitution:

www.usconstitution.net/const.html

Use the index to easily find Article I, Section 6. Here is the quote from the Constitution:

"(The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States.) (The preceding words in parentheses were modified by the 27th Amendment.) They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place."

What this means is that the entire arrest of Senator Larry Craig in the Minneapolis St Paul Airport was illegal. And everything that stems from that arrest is not legal.

Of course, I have been watching too much Law and Order and stayed at a Holiday Inn Express last night so that makes me a legal expert. Just kidding.

But I'm not kidding about the arrest of Larry Craig being illegal according to the Constitution. That's the real deal.

-----Action Items below.

Regardless about how you feel about Senator Larry Craig and the grassroots boycott of the Minneapolis St Paul Airport, the response from the news press has been amazing.

That is very important to you. There are some dangerous bills coming up in Congress in the next month or two that could hurt you a lot.

The grassroots must have political credibility with Congress in order to defeat these bills.

By supporting the Minneapolis St Paul Airport Boycott, you send Congress the message that the grassroots is relevant. That you can make a difference. Regardless of how you feel about Senator Craig and the airport controversy, this is your chance to tell your allies in Congress they need to pay attention to you or you will rise up and send them a message they won't like.

And your enemies in Congress are watching this battle too. They will see the results of this boycott in the press and be more hesitant to pass legislation that will hurt you.

Urge the airport authorities to apologize to Senator Larry Craig for the arrest. It was wrong. It violated his civil rights. And it was probably unconstitutional.

Boycott Northwest Airlines as well. They are helping pay the salaries of the policemen who inappropriately arrested Senator Larry Craig.

Larry Craig did not do anything. These policemen have a profile and they simply arrest people who follow parts of the profile. In this case no actual sexual activity ever took place. They claimed that because of the profile, they knew he must be looking for sex. It is very dangerous to allow the police to arrest people because they think they may do something according to a profile.

-----Whether or not Larry Craig actually resigns, the boycott of the Minneapolis St Paul Airport will continue until the Minneapolis St Paul Airport apologizes for its inappropriate arrest of Larry Craig.

-----That means the boycott will likely go on for at least a year and maybe two years or even more. So please don't plan on any flights into the Minneapolis St Paul Airport or using Northwest Airlines.

-----You have additional leverage. The Republican National Convention is in Minneapolis St Paul next year. So they are rushing to try to get this controversy stopped. Your calls, letters, e-mails and continued pressure means they have to pay attention to you.

Action Items:

-----1. Go to Google and type in: Minneapolis St Paul Airport Boycott. You'll be amazed at what you see.

-----2. Go to www.landrights.org to see many of the news articles.

Look at all the newspapers and television coverage the boycott has received so far. It's fantastic. And all the controversy helps you.

Normally we look to see who gave our issues coverage. In this case, nearly every news outlet is covering the airport boycott.

-----3. You can help by sending a message to the airport that you will support the boycott.

Here is the e-mail of the executive director of the Minneapolis St Paul International Airport. Jeff Hamiel. Jhamiel@mspm.org
Public Affairs. Pat Hogan phogan@mspm.org
Also: publicaffairs@mspm.org (corrected)

-----4. Send an e-mail to Northwest Airlines:
>>Northwest.Airlines@nwa.com<< Let them know you will not fly into Minneapolis St Paul International Airport or on Northwest until the airport

apologizes to Senator Larry Craig.

-----5. You can help even more by calling both your Senators supporting the boycott and supporting allowing Senator Larry Craig to finish out his term. Call any Senator at (202) 224-3121.

-----6. Call each of the Members of the Republican Senatorial Leadership. Craig has been a faithful ally and fought in the trenches with them for 27 years and now they want to just throw him over the side. They are rushing to judgment. Is this how we treat our allies? It is shameful behavior by the Republican Senatorial Leadership. They can be reached on the normal Senate phone number of (202) 224-3121 or send them an e-mail at the addresses below.

Trent Lott (R-MS) - Fax: (601) 965-4644 - e-mail care of jack_norris@lott.senate.gov

John Kyl (R-AZ) - Fax: (202) 224-6791- e-mail care of lucy_murfitt@kyl.senate.gov

John Cornyn (R-TX) Fax: (903)-593-0920 - e-mail care of gail_green@cornyn.senate.gov -

Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) Fax: (202) 224-0775 - e-mail care of marc_short@hutchinson.senate.gov

John Ensign (R-NV) Fax: (202) 228-2193 - e-mail care of john_lopez@ensign.senate.gov

Each one of them needs to hear from you that you support keeping Larry Craig in the Senate and that they need to stand up for their allies.

-----As you can see from the following news article, the Minneapolis St Paul Police were far harsher to Senator Craig than others they arrested for similar offenses.

-----September 10, 2007 - NY Times

-----Sting Charges Against Craig Harsher Than Some By DUFF WILSON -

www.nytimes.com/2007/09/10/washington/10craig.html?

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 6 - The airport men's room where Senator Larry E. Craig was arrested here in a police sting operation is in one of the busiest areas of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, at the intersection of five concourses and near a bustling mall and food court.

Mr. Craig passed through the terminal regularly as he traveled between his home district in Boise, Idaho, and his Congressional offices in Washington.

The details of his arrest shocked his colleagues and constituents, but he was not the only person ensnared in the airport police enforcement action against what the authorities said was lewd conduct in the restroom. Thirty-nine other men were arrested here in a three-month period this summer.

A review of their cases and interviews with four lawyers representing many of the accused show how Mr. Craig - who pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct but now says he is innocent - fits into the larger picture of the sting operation, and sheds light on his prospects in court should he be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea.

Police and court files indicate that Mr. Craig's case may have been handled more harshly than some of the others. For instance, he alone among the 40

men arrested was charged with both disorderly conduct and interference with privacy. The other men were charged with one or the other, or with indecent exposure or loitering.

Patrick Hogan, a spokesman for the airport and the law firm it hired to prosecute the cases, said Mr. Craig was the only man charged with two offenses because he had peered into the police officer's stall and had used unspoken signals – foot tapping and hand motions – known as ways to solicit restroom sex.

Mr. Craig, who says he is not gay, said his actions were misinterpreted by the arresting officer.

Lawyers for many of the other 39 men said that they were contesting the charges against their clients, and that Mr. Craig, too, could have mounted a vigorous defense if he had hired a lawyer instead of plea-bargaining.

The lawyers said their defense strategies were based on the conduct of the police, the lack of sexual contact in the cases and the airport police's novel use of a privacy law as the basis of the most serious charge made against their clients.

Mr. Craig was one of 20 of the men who were charged with interference with privacy, a gross misdemeanor; the penalty is up to a year in jail. But the defense lawyers said the law, adopted two years ago in response to cases involving hidden cameras in women's rooms, had not been used before in a sex sting operation.

Jeffrey Dean, a lawyer defending four of the men, said: "There can be no invasion of privacy of a person who is inviting the conduct. The undercover officer, by his own account, sits there in an adjacent stall and signals the person that he wants this contact."

The disorderly conduct charge to which Mr. Craig pleaded guilty is a lesser offense with a suspended sentence, \$500 fine and probation. Ten of the 40 men arrested in the restroom have pleaded guilty to various charges. No trials have been scheduled, and none of the men have had charges dismissed, although two were given "suspended prosecution" in which their records may be expunged after a year.

Robert J. Shane, a lawyer for a man who received a suspended prosecution, said, "If Craig would have had an attorney, I think he could have got that type of agreement."

Jerome A. Burg, a lawyer for another defendant, said after reviewing Mr. Craig's publicly available police reports: "I don't think he had violated the law yet. I think the officer jumped the gun." Mr. Craig's conduct, as described in the police report, was far from the most lewd, a comparison of the 40 arrest reports showed; some men were accused of passing sexually explicit notes or exposing themselves.

His was one of only five of the cases in which a plainclothes officer was touched; Mr. Craig was accused of moving his right foot under the stall divider to touch the officer's left foot. Mr. Craig has said he may have accidentally touched shoes because he sat with his legs spread wide.

The police reports showed that many of the other men also looked into the adjoining stall, two by peering over the partition, which is less than six feet tall, and at least 14 by crouching on the floor and looking under the partition, which is one foot off the floor.

Mr. Hogan said the airport planned to replace the partitions with ones that go lower.

The Minneapolis airport is the world's 15th busiest, and is known in some circles as a site for homosexual hook-ups. "A busy place for lewd conduct,"

a lot more than other airports, one of the men told the police after he was arrested. Another man said he had had a lot of sex with pilots and flight attendants there.

The large, gray-and-blue tiled bathroom is divided by walls into three sections for sinks, urinals and, in the back, nine small stalls. Police action there started May 13 with the arrest of a 40-year-old California man who had advertised on Craigslist.org for "no-strings fun while I'm waiting at the airport." He exposed himself, the police said, and was charged with disorderly conduct.

After that, the plainclothes police officers began sitting in the stalls to see who would solicit sex. The first arrest in their sting operation was on May 31; the operation continued until Aug. 13.

Mr. Craig's actions on June 11, as described by the police, were less blatant than those of some men with lesser charges.

For instance, a Wisconsin man, 49, had signaled an officer to enter an adjacent stall, tapped his foot, reached under the divider to touch the officer's leg and looked over the divider. He was charged with interference with privacy.

A Wyoming man, 45, exposed himself in addition to other actions, and told the police he had had sex there before. But he was charged only with the minor misdemeanor, disorderly conduct.

Three lawyers for other defendants said they were impressed with Mr. Craig's unbending denial in an eight-minute interview he had with the police shortly after his arrest. The audio was released to the news media and is on the Internet.

Mr. Burg said Mr. Craig was "tenacious" and "straightforwardly defending himself" in the interview.

"He stuck very close to his story," Mr. Burg said. "A lot of people would have caved."

Mr. Craig has said he intends to resign his Senate seat by Sept. 30 unless he can have the case overturned and gain support in Washington. If he resigns, he will join two other defendants in the sex sting who quickly lost their jobs: a 21-year-old airport store worker and a 25-year-old US Airways employee, whose employers learned of the arrests when police seized and later returned their airport security badges. Both men admitted to previous sexual contacts in the restroom.

Mr. Dean, the defense lawyer, said, "My legal argument is: as long as it's not invading anybody else's privacy, as long as it's not causing alarm to other people in the bathroom, and as long as they don't actually have sex in the bathroom, it's no crime."

Jonathan Burris, a lawyer representing five of the defendants, said the national attention on Mr. Craig had made prosecutors less likely to reduce charges against the other men.

"They're very happy with their officers for their wonderful sting they've put together," Mr. Burris said, adding, "This is an airport - they're supposed to watch out for terrorists and bombs, not sit in a bathroom eight hours a day."

Barclay Walsh contributed reporting.

-----Larry Craig Police Report:

You should read the two page police report. Pretty flimsy evidence it seems to me. Others who have read it agree.

www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/years/2007/0828071craig1.html

By going to the same URL you can also read the interrogation transcript as well as the audio version of the interrogation by the two police officers.

Nothing in the police report or interview says Larry Craig actually did anything unlawful. The policeman was reading Senator Craig's body language and the tea leaves to divine what he was thinking about doing or trying to do.

In other words, the policeman was profiling visitors to the restroom at the Minneapolis St Paul International Airport.

It was the policeman's perception that Senator Craig was trying to do something. In other words, he was following a profile. Larry Craig deserves our support and action on his behalf.

The whole arrest report is flimsy and the profiling may make it illegal.

Profiling by police is an issue all across the country. You should contact the American Civil Liberties Union in Minnesota unless you know someone in that organization locally. For some reason they have been very quiet on the whole Larry Craig affair. Is that because they only protect liberals and liberal causes? We'll see.

The Minneapolis St Paul Airport is using profiling to arrest people for what they think they may do, not what they actually did. They are so far outside legal bounds that eventually the courts will rein them in.

But that may not be in time to save Senator Larry Craig. We must make them pay for destroying the career of the best private property advocate in the Senate.

People wonder why Larry Craig pleaded guilty to the Disorderly Conduct charge. It was not a sex charge. He mistakenly did it to try to avoid a controversy. Obviously, that was a bad idea.

Why did he do it? Do you think you would be proud to be arrested in an airport bathroom, innocent or not? There is no way you can defend yourself, especially if you are a public official. It is very hard to explain that you were arrested by police using a profile so they arrested you for something they thought you were going to do. It is at the very least embarrassing. If you read the arrest report you will see how flimsy these charges are. Senator Larry Craig did nothing wrong.

Going after people using profiling is dangerous and illegal. The civil rights of Senator Craig and many others have been violated. No doubt some truly guilty people too.

Let there be no mistake. We support the police effort to stop the use of the airport as a sexual hangout. But they must do it legally and fairly and not violate the civil rights of airport visitors.

Please don't let the Minneapolis St Paul Airport get away with these "Gestapo tactics." Yes, that is what Ben Stein called them.

I know Senator Craig. He has done more to protect private property rights, recreation and the use of Federal lands than any other Senator. He is a good man who has given courageous service to you and all citizens of America for 26 years. He deserves better. He deserves your support.

At American Land Rights we don't throw our allies over the side unlike some in the Senate Republican Leadership. Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican

Leader, even threatened to run another Republican against Senator Craig if he did not resign. Never mind the fact that he is innocent.

Senator Craig would never have suggested he might resign if not for the intense pressure from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the Republican Senatorial Leadership.

He is being bullied by an out of control police department. And I might add, an out of control Republican Senate leadership.

You have the power in your hands to send the Republican Leadership a message that Republicans don't eat their young. They don't hurt their friends. And when they do, it will not be tolerated by the grassroots.

-----If the Senate Republican Leadership thought they could sweep this miscarriage of justice under the rug, they are very wrong. We will not allow the controversy to go away. This boycott will run all the way through the Republican Convention in Minneapolis next year.

The airport public affairs manager bragged to me that they are getting lots of people and they are all pleading guilty to the lesser charge.

Well of course they plead guilty to a lesser charge. They are humiliated and afraid, just like Larry Craig was. Do you remember the Duke University La Cross players scandal? The charges all eventually proved to be untrue. What you see first is not necessary what happened or what you get. Especially when you have overzealous police and prosecutors.

Anyone going to the Minneapolis St Paul Airport needs to fear that this out of control police state mob will arrest you for something. They'll find something.

I'm proud to defend Larry Craig. I have been protecting private land owners and users of Federal lands for 35 years and most people I know think that defending Larry Craig is one of the best things American Land Rights has ever done as an organization.

One prominent woman noted: "I hope if I ever get in trouble, I have you behind me." Don't rush to judgment. In the end I think Larry Craig could well be vindicated and won't Senator Mitch McConnell and others trying to oust him be embarrassed then. But they don't want to give him a chance to vindicate himself.

It is the process that counts. It must be fair and even handed. It is awfully difficult to fight back after you have been intimidated into pleading guilty to disorderly conduct. If you listen to the interrogation you would think the officer had been taking lessons from Law and Order, SVU. He was very harsh. So Larry Craig has an uphill climb.

If Larry Craig finally leaves the Senate it will be in no small measure because of a rush to judgment by the Senate Republican Leadership led by Senator Mitch McConnell.

This is an opportunity for the grassroots that often is ignored by Congress to send a message to Congress and Senator McConnell that you will not be tread upon. That even though he does not support his allies, you do. That will help you in the coming months as Congress considers several bills that could take your house, ranch, land, access or mine.

This is about getting recognition from Congress that you and I count. So believe what you want to believe. In the end, whether or not we save Larry Craig, American Land Rights will be known as an organization that stands up for our friends and the civil rights of individuals and the grassroots will have gained an enormous amount of respect from Congress. That will help

you stop some or all the bad legislation Congress is planning in the next few months.

I don't care if Congress likes us. I care if they respect you. Larry Craig was just trying to avoid a controversy by pleading guilty to disorderly conduct. He was embarrassed. He hoped no one would notice. He guessed wrong. All of us are smart at some things and not so smart at others. I'm good at defending other people from the government. There are lots of things that you could look at and say I'm not so smart about.

But I understand how to protect landowners and the users of Federal land and I don't stab our allies in the back or throw them to the wolves. No matter what happens here, I will be very proud of what American Land Rights has done this month. You should be too.

Let me remind you that no Senator has done more for private property rights, ranchers, miners, forestry advocates, recreationists and the users of Federal land than Senator Larry Craig. If he is lost, you are going to lose big time. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is that we give our best effort to save him from an over reacting press and other Senators who don't stand up for their allies.

American Land Rights has over 600,000 e-mail addresses, 900,000 fax numbers and over 2 million names. We hope everyone will forward this message. Even if they don't, those that do will vastly increase the number of people we are able to reach with this message. So keep forwarding.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chuck Cushman
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