

REPLY TO:

135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
TTY: (202) 224-4479
e-mail: chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov

721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 284-4890

206 FEDERAL BUILDING
101 1ST STREET SE.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-1227
(319) 363-6832

REPLY TO:

103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860

210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657

116 FEDERAL BUILDING
131 E. 4TH STREET
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1513
(563) 322-4331

307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

March 5, 2003

Colonel William J. Bayles
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Re: Muslim Youth Camps of America
Al Carr
Matt Power and Greg Evans

Dear Colonel Bayles:

Enclosed are copies of letters from Mr. Al Carr, North Liberty, Iowa, and Messrs. Matt Power and Greg Evans, Iowa City regarding concerns with the proposed lease of land at Coralville Lake to the Muslim Youth Camps of America. Mr. Carr reports there has been no response to fire safety questions raised by the North Liberty Fire Department, and no fire safety issues raised in the Environmental Assessment. He reports a recent fire in the area and increased these concerns.

Messrs. Power and Evans are concerned the proposed lease will violate First Amendment separation of church and state. They report recent events raise security issues, and report they are concerned the Corps has not addressed the concerns of local residents.

I would appreciate any information you could send me regarding this matter. Please direct your response to my Cedar Rapids office.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET
JUDICIARY

Co-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

RANKING, CEG/mld
FINANCE

March 3, 2003

Honorable Charles Grassley
206 Federal Building
101 1st St. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Senator Grassley,

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter which I sent to Colonel William J. Bayles of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. You will note that once again safety is the primary issue of my objections to the proposed commercial development at the former Camp Daybreak site in Johnson County, IA.

As your staff personnel will confirm, we have been attempting to require the Corps of Engineers to address and recognize the safety concerns which my neighbors and I, as well as hundreds of Johnson County and Iowa residents, have raised regarding the Muslim Youth Camps of America proposed camp and commercial retreat. It would appear that the Corps gives little credence to our concerns. I would hope that the enclosed article and the letter written by the North Liberty Fire Chief nearly 3 months prior would highlight just one of the safety issues which have not been adequately addressed to this point.

Senator Grassley, the Corps of Engineers paid more than \$108,000 for Zambrana Associates to do an Environmental Assessment. No where in that document is fire safety discussed, other than to mention that fire calls would be made to the City of North Liberty. No person from either the Corps of Engineers or Zambrana Associates ever called the City of North Liberty regarding fire responsibilities or water, equipment or personnel requirements for a project of the size proposed by MYCA and the Corps of Engineers.

Sir, at what point do you actually take an interest in this process? I appreciate your forwarding questions to the Corps. But, today, as the Corps of Engineers is on the brink of making a decision on the basis of a flawed Environmental Assessment, we ask you to finally become involved. World events notwithstanding, this decision affects our neighborhood, our community, our county and displays the decision making process of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

We ask for your interest, or the interest of your staff, in requiring the Corps of Engineers to take our concerns seriously and to reflect on them prior to making a final decision.

Sincerely,


Alfred H. Carr
3564 Cumberland Ridge Rd NE
North Liberty, IA 52317

March 3, 2003

Col. William J. Bayles
Department of the Army
Rock Island District Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building- PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

RE: Proposed lease of Camp Daybreak, Coralville Lake, North Liberty, IA

Dear Colonel Bayles,

I am sending this letter as a reminder of the safety issues which abound regarding the proposed MYCA Camp and Muslim Retreat Center. As noted in the enclosed article from the February 19, 2003 Iowa City Press Citizen and prior letter composed by the North Liberty Fire Department, it appears that other than pumping water from the Coralville Lake at the Jolly Roger Campground or running fire trucks to the nearest fire hydrant nearly 2 ½ miles south, there is no water available for putting out possible fires at the former Camp Daybreak site.

In addition to the obvious potential danger to the proposed development, it appears that our neighborhood could possibly be at risk as well. If a fire broke out at the proposed site there would be little or no chance to stop it with currently available equipment and existing water supplies. Nothing short of a fully functional fire hydrant will provide any modicum of safety in the immediate neighborhood.

As a consequence I wish to notify you, as representative of the US Army Corps of Engineers, that we will hold the Corps of Engineers liable for any damages to our property, including trees and improvements, which might occur as a result of a fire at the proposed MYCA Youth Camp and Muslim Retreat Center site. In our opinion, only extreme negligence on the part of the US Army Corps of Engineers would approve the construction of a project the size currently proposed by MYCA without also recognizing and accounting for the inherent dangers associated with the remote nature of the site.

We have seen nothing in the MYCA Proposal, in the Zambrana produced Environmental Assessment, or any documentation from the US Army Corps of Engineers that indicate the issue of fire safety in the immediate neighborhood has been realistically and adequately addressed or even considered.

Sincerely,

Alfred H. Carr
3564 Cumberland Ridge Road NE
North Liberty, IA 52317

Cc: Senator Charles Grassley
Cc: Congressman Jim Leach

Fire guts Jolly Rogers lodge

By Tammara Meester
Iowa City Press-Citizen

NORTH LIBERTY — Angel and Dave Harper watched helplessly Wednesday morning as fire destroyed the building they have been remodeling the past three months.

The Harpers own Jolly Rogers Campground north of North Liberty and live on the premises. Fire consumed most of the campground lodge — a metal pole building that housed an office, restaurant, bathrooms and a retail shop.

Angel Harper was at home when she was startled by a loud noise shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday. Looking outside, she saw flames coming out of the bathroom window of the lodge, about 50 yards from her house.

The campground borders Coralville Lake at the northernmost end of Scales Bend Road.

Harper said she briefly considered not calling 911.

"I didn't think it was that bad because I just saw flames," she said later, watching smoke roll out of the charred lodge building.

North Liberty police officer Diane Vennenga was the first to arrive at the scene. By then, she said, "flames were coming out of the roof." North Liberty firefighters later were assisted by crews from Solon, Swisher, Coralville, Oxford and Tiffin.

"It was fully engulfed when we came on the scene," North Liberty Fire Chief Jon Harding said. "The roof had already collapsed."

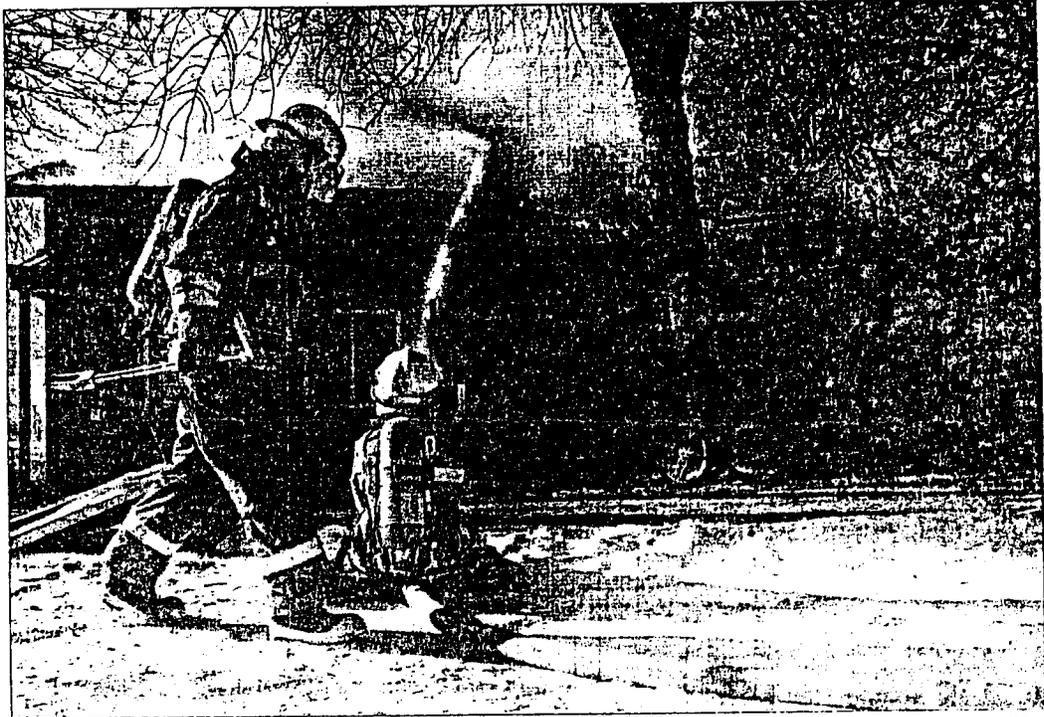
No one was injured. However, a propane tank explosion sent a jagged metal piece through a lodge window and narrowly missed onlookers outside.

A frozen Coralville Lake initially hampered firefighting efforts, forcing crews to truck in more than 2,750 gallons of water.

"There's not a fire hydrant for three miles," Harding said. Firefighters later broke through the ice.

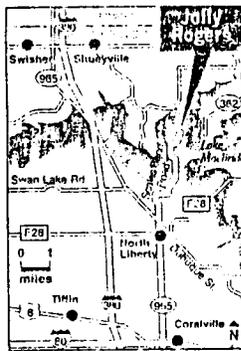
Harding said the cause of the blaze has not been determined. Harper speculated it might be the furnace because of the noise she heard and the fact the furnace is located above the lodge bathroom.

The fire points out con-



Press-Citizen / Matthew Holst

North Liberty firefighters work to put down the fire at the Jolly Rogers Campground Lodge early Wednesday morning. The cause has yet to be determined for the fire, which caused an estimated \$400,000 in damages.



cerns about water supply and emergency equipment accessibility at a proposed Muslim youth camp, said North Liberty volunteer firefighter Dave Hubler, formerly the city's fire chief. The proposed campsite sits along Scales Bend Road on the way to the campground.

"If anybody has some sort of camp or living quarters set up out here, we're going to have issues with the water supply," Harding said.

The Harpers plan to rebuild by the campground's planned April 1 opening. They recently stocked the retail shop and had nearly completed the remodeling,

consisting primarily of cosmetic changes. Firefighters said the building appears to be a complete loss.

Although the Harpers had not talked with their insurance agent, Angel Harper estimated their loss, including contents, in the \$400,000 range. Fortunately, she took the computer out of the office a few days ago.

"All of my reservations for the year are on it," she said.

This is the second time the Harpers, who also own Harper's Marina nearby, have suffered a major loss since buying the campground 11 years ago. They didn't have flood insurance during the 1993 flood and remodeled the house as well as the lodge with their own funds and Small Business Administration loans.

As firefighters soaked the lodge Wednesday, Dave Harper periodically crossed the lawn, peered inside and returned with damage reports. The counter was gone. Retail items were mounds of ash, except for plastic buckets, shovels and other children's toys.

"The toys are just melted plastic piles on the floor," he said.



Press-Citizen / Matthew Holst

A firefighter looks on as others look for hot spots inside the Jolly Rogers lodge as they work to contain the fire that destroyed the building.

NORTH LIBERTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief David A. Hubler

FIRE/RESCUE/HAZMAT
25 West Cherry Street
North Liberty, Iowa 52317

Phone: (319) 626-5717

Fax: (319) 626-3288

E-Mail: dhubler@ci.north-liberty.ia.us

TO: RJ MOORE
BRIAN JAMES
SARAH HELT

SUBJECT: MYCA PROJECT

Penn Township Trustee Sarah Helt, first contacted me on Wednesday November 20, 2002 in the evening, asking about the article in the Iowa City Gazette. She wanted to know my feeling on this camp. She had talked with past Fire Chief Brian Greer in 1999 or 2000 when this issue first came up. We discussed the article. I pointed out some of my feeling to her at that time.

On Friday November 22, 2002 I had a short discussion with City Administrator Brian James about MYCA. After I was able to get the rest of my work done at the fire station. I went to the location of campsite off Scales Bend road to 200 St. I have never been on this property before, and wanted to check out distances. From the North Liberty Fire Station it is approximately 3.6 miles to the gate of the campgrounds. I parked my pickup outside of the gate, walked down the old roadbed to check the grounds out. The old walk bridges to the cabins the cabins are still there. The old cabins have the poles and floors are still there. The sidewalls and roof have collapsed onto the floor. There is a lot of under growth of vegetation through out. I was able to see the orange tape that marks the different locations and a blue tape. I found the old toilet and shower area and went over to the existing picnic shelter. The existing well is a 6" well casing which can probably pump a maximum of 30 gallons a minute. From the old lodge foundation I walked back to the southeast where the planned parking lot is to be located. I then returned back up the roadbed, which has undergrowth and a tree canopy. From here I drove down Cumberland Ridge Road, which runs parallel with the camp lane. It is approximately .3 miles from the gate to where the convention center will be located. From the gate to the Jolly Roger camp ground boat ramp is approximately 1.8 miles, this is one location where a pumper could be set in order to draft out of the lake for water to shuttle. The number of campers and boaters can affect this at the time. There is also a steep grade as you come out of the camp grounds on scales bend road to return to the proposed site and you will be coming through residential areas. From the gate, back to North Liberty's nearest hydrant at Pheasant Hill is approximately 2.5 miles.

I received an email on November 25th that was dated November 22nd from RJ Moore. I then went that day and talked with the North Liberty building inspector Tom Palmer. We discussed square footage needed for the convention center depending on its use. If only standing space is figured in you will need 7 square feet per person, however if the space is to be used for seating with tables you need 15 square feet per person. Using the maximum capacity stated by the Iowa City Gazette of 384 people, the total square footage needed will be 5,760 square feet. This calculation was done using North Liberty City standards. These numbers are important in figuring the water flow needed to this site in case of a fire.

On December 2nd I talked to John Castle, the head of Corps. Of Engineering. John provided a copy of the layout of the campgrounds and showed me a picture of the proposed Convention Center. It appeared to be a heavy timber construction, however did not provide the height dimensions needed to figure in water flow needed.

December 3rd I met with RJ Moore, Rick Dvorak, and Ruben Arsate. I brought several questions concerning what Johnson County had for building codes on property regulations. Johnson

NORTH LIBERTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief David A. Hubler

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County uses United Building Codes. According to Ruben this will be classified as an A-3 structure under the UBC. This is for an occupant load of less than 300 with an assembly room for educational purposes but without a legitimate stage, and not classed as group B or E occupancies. A-3 structures must be of Type I construction. Type I construction must consist of steel, iron, concrete, or masonry. Walls and permanent partitions shall be of noncombustible fire-resistant construction. Permanent nonbearing partitions of one-hour or two-hour fire-resistive construction and not part of a shaft enclosure may have fire-retardant treated wood. This type of structure with a floor area that exceeds 1500 square foot will require an automatic sprinkler system.

My feelings are that Scales Bend Road is one of the worst roads we have in our fire district. It is narrow and winding, which makes it difficult to drive even in good road conditions. As this area is to be used year round the threat of wet, icy, or snowy driving conditions it is a concern. The lane leading into the camp is to be the existing road of gravel measuring 18 feet across which is not wide enough for tanker shuttle, which will have to be established. Some of the trucks will carry up to 3000 gallons of water plus the additional truck weight of approximately 48,000 pounds. In the case of an emergency these trucks will be meeting and passing each other on this road with a soft shoulder creating a larger hazard for rescue personnel. I feel that we need a road width of at least 22-24 feet. Due to the length of this lane there is a need for a turn around area as set by the county supervisor's a few years back. We will also need a cul-de-sac area at each end of the convention center due to pumper and portatank placement needs. In the case of a fire this is very important to staging. We will be sending tanker trucks in dropping their water load into the porta-tanks and then turning the trucks around in order to send them back out for more water. Another concern is the ground elevation, as based on the map. There is a drop of 50 feet from the gate to the convention center and depending on weather conditions this could also cause problems.

To figure the water flow that will be needed in the case of a fire you need to factor in the total dimensions of the building. These exact numbers have not been provided for me so I have done the best I could with approximate calculations. From the drawing I have factored 107 x 70 or 7490 square feet. From the drawing shown to me by John Castle I have approximated the overall height of the structure to be 30 feet. These numbers calculated together give you an area of 224,700 cubic feet. In order to best determine the water needs in case of a fire divide this number by 100 equaling 2,247 gallons of water per minute needed for a time span of 4 hours. In order to achieve this amount we will need at least three (3) pumpers or a pumper and a Quint (ladder Truck) to provide that much water flow. Keep in mind that if the convention center or any of the cabins were to catch fire the risk of it spreading to the surrounding wooded areas is great; this unfortunately would stretch our resources even further. We carry 1000 gallon on 112 and 113, which are pumpers; the Quint holds 400 gallons, the tanker carries 1750. There would be a need to call mutual aid, which will also provide us with water as well as manpower. Available would be [redacted] tanker at 2000 gallons, [redacted] at 2000 gallons, [redacted] at 1800 gallons, [redacted] at 3000 gallons, [redacted] 2000 gallons, [redacted] at 2000 gallons, and [redacted] at 1500 gallons. [redacted] will have a new truck available by August 2003.

[redacted] Drive time back to the hydrant will be about 5 minutes. Depending on hydrant pressure it will take 4-4.5 minutes to fill these tankers, West Branch's truck will take approximately 6 minutes. Driving time back to scene, varying on each tanker and road conditions, will take approximately 6 minutes with a dumping time of 1.5-2 minutes. This needs to be a consideration, as we cannot put in a dry hydrant due to elevation factors. The lowest point on the campgrounds is 710 feet and the lake is 673-680 feet. A dry hydrant can only pull water

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Chief David A. Hubler

FIRE/RESCUE/HAZMAT
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up 25 feet and at 20 feet the effectiveness is decreased. We would also have trouble laying a Nofy hose line. From the road to the cabins you are about 200 feet. One possible solution would be to widen the trails overall. Widening the trail that runs from north to south by the toilet would also be helpful in placement of a pumper or for staging of ambulances in the case of a medical emergency.

This all said I do have several questions and concerns. In the case of safety, who is going to be the regulating party over the camp site, such a sprinkler function, total capacity, and campfires during dry years when the burn ban is in effect. Is this the responsibility of the Fire Department, Johnson County Sheriff, Johnson County Building Inspectors, [REDACTED] What fines are to be set for violations? Who is responsible to get the people out of the area if they don't have their own vehicles, and if they are using busses how will this affect our ability to get our equipment in and set up? Also what type of storm shelter is going to be in place for these people and will it meet Maximum capacity needs?

The camp in itself is not a main concern to me [REDACTED] Because of this there is no tax reimbursements to the City of North Liberty or Penn and Madlson Townships. This I feel is unfair to the residents of the area who will be paying in tax money to help support the protection of the center. You have to look at the possible and most likely increase in traffic accidents, fire and medical coverage, water rescue and or recovery. [REDACTED]

As for the Fire Department we have seen a significant increase in the number of calls over the last ten years. These numbers have increased as the population has increased [REDACTED]

If you have any questions for me please feel free to contact me and I will be willing to help answer them the best that I can.

Summary

1. Scales Bend Road had load embargos and is bad to drive in good weather conditions.
2. Roads into the campgrounds are not wide enough and needs to have the tree canopy trimmed to at least 13 feet above ground.
3. Roads into the campground are to long without the proper turn around areas. These need to be in place with strict rules concerning No Parking at anytime.
4. Convention Center will have to have sprinkler system in place.
5. Water needs are approximately 2,247 gallons of water per minute over a time span of four hours.
6. To effectively fight a fire we would need full mutual aid from the county and hope that no other major structure catches fire in the county at the same time.
7. Weather conditions could add to delays
8. No dry hydrant will work on the camp site
9. Tent and cabin accessibilty are difficult to obtain with hose lines
10. Who will have jurisdiction over building code enforcements
11. Fire Department should be compensated for coverage of commercial property
12. Storm shelter needs to be addressed for the safety of the people

February 21, 2003

Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senator
101 First Street Southeast
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley,

We represent a group of local citizens who are concerned about the pending construction of a Muslim Youth Camp in our area (Johnson County, Iowa). This proposed camp concerns us for the following reasons:

- (1) The proposed site for the camp is a tract of federal land, managed by the Rock Island Corps of Engineers, situated near North Liberty, Iowa. The fact that government-owned land is in view raises First Amendment issues. Although we fully support the constitutional right of all Americans to express and propagate their religious beliefs, we believe that it is inappropriate and unconstitutional to engage in such activities on federal property, since the cost of maintaining such land is underwritten by U. S. taxpayers, many of whom do not support Islamic ideology. To us, it appears that allowing an overtly religious organization to promulgate the doctrines of Islam on federal grounds violates the establishment clause in our U. S. Constitution. To give but two examples, the group planning to build the camp, Muslim Youth Camps of America, has proposed the construction of a 17,500 square foot building replete with a mosque dome and a 36 foot tall prayer tower. (See enclosed depiction.)
- (2) Though we do not wish to be alarmist and certainly desire to be charitable in our outlook toward Islamic religious activities, clearly there are issues of national security involved in this particular project. For example, the prospective directors of this camp want to bring in over 13,000 people each year. According to MYCA, these will include a large number of inner-city men with troubled backgrounds and even some Saudi Arabian nationals. Even if 99%+ of these people are non-terrorist Muslims, with that many people going in and out of the camp, what is to prevent a small number of terrorists to infiltrate the camp and use it as a preparation base/training facility? How will the activities within the camp be monitored so as to make sure this doesn't happen? Again, though we are endeavoring to avoid paranoia, we believe that measured concern about this is entirely appropriate. Roy Innis, President Bush's appointed chairman of the Congress on Racial Equality, has expressed concern that disgruntled inner-city black men in particular are prime targets for certain kinds of Islamic indoctrination. (See enclosed article.) Moreover, our concern about these matters is intensified by the fact that despite the misleading "youth camp" designation, those being targeted for participation in this "youth" camp are exclusively men ages 18 and above!
- (3) The Rock Island Corps of Engineers, who at some level represent the federal government, have steadfastly ignored the concerns of local residents, acting as though construction of the camp is a done deal. Despite the fact that a second, sizeable citizens group is opposed to the camp for reasons of environmental impact, logistical difficulties, inadequate existing infrastructure, traffic congestion, noise pollution, etc., the Corps of Engineers has belittled these concerns when they have been voiced. Furthermore, the North Liberty City Council and the Johnson County Board of Supervisors have registered their opposition to the camp on the grounds that it will negatively affect nearby quality of life and violate local and county ordinances, yet they, too, have been treated as inconsequential by the Corps.

We hope you will deem it appropriate to take immediate action concerning this matter. For the time being, postponement of the camp's construction until the issues cited above have been thoroughly considered seems reasonable to us. (We feel that the Corp railroaded consideration of the project through so as to prevent adequate evaluation of these issues.) If our concerns are shown to be valid, we would then desire to have the aforementioned land development blocked by a federal injunction. In any event, thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

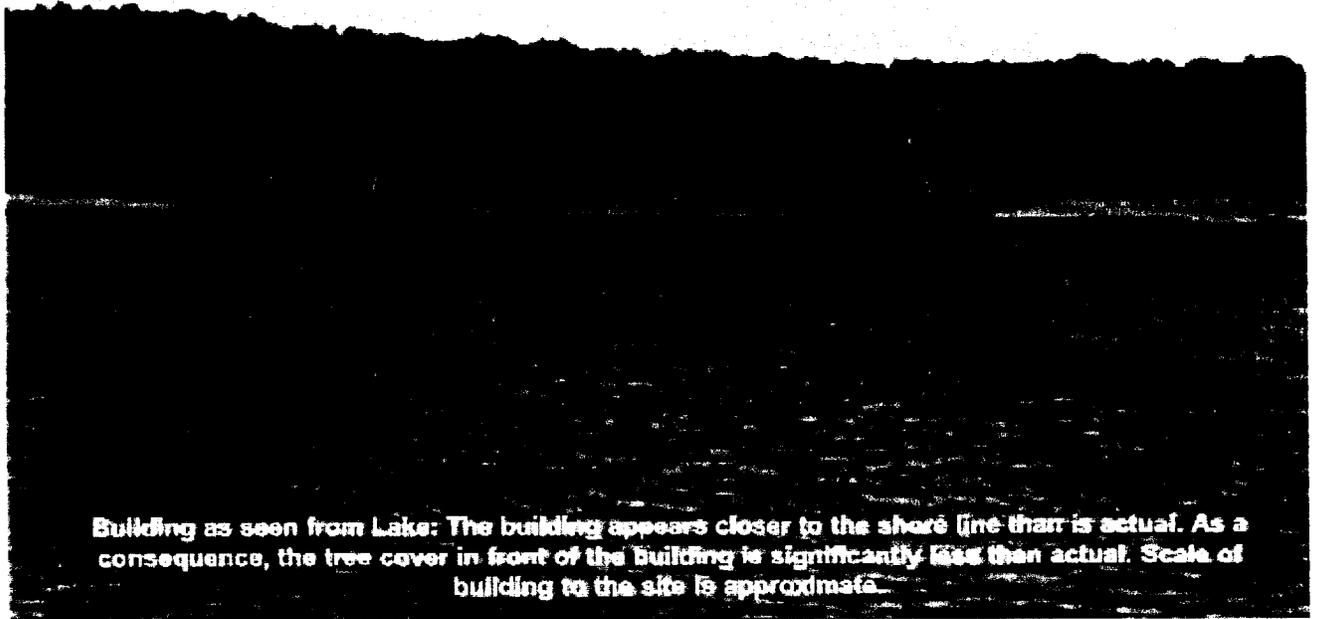


Concerned Citizens of Johnson County

P. O. Box 3336

Iowa City, IA 52244

(319) 325-1969 Matt or (319) 337-3827 Greg



Building as seen from Lake: The building appears closer to the shore line than is actual. As a consequence, the tree cover in front of the building is significantly less than actual. Scale of building to the site is approximate.



View at Entrance: Prayer room with mosaic tiles.

Roy Innis Warns of Black Muslim Threat

The head of one of the nation's most prominent civil rights organizations has warned the White House that the rise of radical Islam within America's black community could provide a breeding ground for the perpetrators of the next wave of terror attacks against the U.S.

In a letter sent to the Bush administration, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) Chairman Roy Innis requested

problem for our country and for black Americans in particular. And that is the large number of non-spiritually based conversions to Islam — both inside and outside of jail.

"It's not going to take long for al Qaeda to begin capitalizing on this, if they haven't already," the CORE chief warned.

"Osama bin Laden was able to sneak 19 guys into the country with visas and attack the country on September 11. That won't be so easy to do anymore," Innis noted. "But the guys coming out of jail, the recent converts, the angry guys floating around the country who are looking for a framework to express their hostility — they don't need visas."

The longtime civil rights leader fears that if the next terrorist attack has black fingerprints on it, it could destroy decades of progress in American race relations.

"All the revolutionary gains of Dr. Martin Luther King, of CORE and the NAACP and the others could be washed away overnight if the phenomenon continues unchecked."

Innis pointed to the recent arrest of six al Qaeda suspects in Oregon, noting: "Already we see this trend being played out. ... Three of them were Black Muslims."

The fact that Beltway sniper John Mohammed was also a Muslim convert who was sympathetic to the Sept. 11 attacks only heightens his concern, the CORE chief told NewsMax.

He also zeroed in on Nation of Islam (NOI) chief Louis Farrakhan, who, Innis said, needs to clean house of people like Mohammed, who worked as a security guard for the NOI's 1995 Million Man March.

He called on Farrakhan to "weed out his non-spiritually based followers" and to take care that "his rhetoric doesn't

give aid and comfort and nurture" [to] al Qaeda sympathizers.

Innis stressed that he is not questioning anybody's genuinely held religious beliefs. "But I am challenging whether these are in fact spiritually based conversions — or are they just convenient vehicles to express hostilities and sociopathic behavior," he told NewsMax.

The civil rights leader said the first item he'd like to discuss with Attorney General Ashcroft is the potential national security threat posed by al Qaeda sympathizers who will one day be released from prison.

Noting that both confessed al Qaeda shoe bomber Richard Reid and dirty-bomb suspect Jose Padilla were jailhouse converts to Islam, the CORE chief urged: "That's the prime target to deal with right now. Do something about those prisons." **NM**



Radical anti-American Muslims are recruiting blacks in U.S. prisons, warns ROY INNIS, chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality.

Photo Nancy Kaszerman/Zuma Press

a meeting with Homeland Security czar Tom Ridge, Attorney General John Ashcroft and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice to discuss what he sees as a "clear and present danger" posed to U.S. race relations by the rising tide of "non-spiritual" Muslim conversions.

Innis fears the trend means that many sympathetic to al Qaeda and its anti-American agenda are providing a waiting pool of potential terrorist recruits.

"Even before the Beltway sniper attacks," Innis told NewsMax in an exclusive interview, "I anticipated a real

Bush: Saddam Has Nuclear 'Mujahadeen'

President Bush warned the nation that Iraqi madman Saddam Hussein is preparing to wage a nuclear jihad, with an elite group of scientists known as Saddam's "Nuclear Mujahadeen" working to perfect atomic weapons to be used for international blackmail.

"Saddam Hussein has held numerous meetings with Iraqi nuclear scientists, a group he calls his 'Nuclear Mujahadeen' — his nuclear holy warriors," Bush told a Cincinnati audience, in a dramatic speech designed to make the case for pre-emptive action against Baghdad.

"Satellite photographs reveal that Iraq is rebuilding facilities at sites that have been part of its nuclear program in the past," the president warned ominously. **NM**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil>

March 21, 2003

Real Estate Division

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator
101 First Street Southeast
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley:

This is in response to your inquiry, dated March 5, 2003, on behalf of Mr. Al Carr, of North Liberty, Iowa and Messrs. Matt Power and Greg Evans, of Iowa City, Iowa, regarding the proposed lease to Muslim Youth Camps of America.

Mr. Carr's letter expresses concerns that fire safety has not been adequately addressed in the Environmental Assessment. The section of the Environmental Assessment on Life, Health and Safety discusses emergency services and includes the statement that "consideration of adequate water supply for potential fire fighting capabilities would be required as part of the overall design of the proposed structures and site." Our lessees must comply with applicable laws, ordinances and regulations of the state, county and municipality where the lease premises are located. Any lessee of the proposed camp will need to comply with any requirements enforced by the state, county and local authorities with regard to construction and fire safety.

The letter from Messrs. Power and Evans states concern regarding leasing Federal land to an organization with religious affiliations. The Corps has authority to lease Federal lands at our projects to non-profit organizations for recreational purposes. In exercising that authority, the Corps has granted leases to many non-profit organizations, including those with religious affiliations, to operate camp facilities. The information submitted with the application by Muslim Youth Camps of America states that this will not be a religious education and training camp, but rather a summer camp where participants can live their religious values regardless of religious orientation. The conceptual development plan provided with the application by Muslim Youth Camps of America includes construction of a prayer room. We will review the final plans for development of the site and work with the lessee to ensure that the design of proposed improvements is consistent with the purpose of the lease and the aesthetic integrity of the area.

Messrs. Power and Evans also express concerns about national security regarding this proposed camp. The Corps is complying with all national security requirements applicable to

leasing this property to the Muslim Youth Camps of America or any other group. Furthermore, we have staff who patrol our project lands and we periodically inspect areas we have leased to others. If we observe activities that are suspicious or pose a threat to security, we will report them to the appropriate authorities.

The Corps has prepared an Environmental Assessment to assess the impacts of alternative uses of the site, including leasing the site for development as a non-profit group camp. The Environmental Assessment was distributed for public review and comment by interested agencies and individuals. The comments received will be considered in the final decision regarding the impacts of the alternatives.

If you require further information, please contact Mr. Dick Mattson of our Real Estate Division, at (309) 794-5263.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

William J. Bayles
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501