

POLITICS CAN'T BE PLACED ABOVE THE NATION'S SAFETY

September 25, 2001

In the aftermath of the attacks on the twin towers of the World Trade Center, we have another day of infamy. The first occurred on December 7, 1941, and was labeled as such by President Roosevelt.

I see parallels in both incidents that are disturbing. If we are to avoid anymore such events, they should be recognized and rectified for all time.

On both occasions the nation was unprepared and reacted in shock and disbelief. It is hard for me to believe that with the warning signs preceding both attacks one should be totally surprised by either. A glaring and irrefutable fact is in both cases a great number of people failed to do their jobs. As a consequence all Americans have and will pay a very dear price.

I am convinced political interests and correctness contributed in large part to the success of both events. Such are the results when political concerns take precedence over the nation's welfare. I am sorry to say it's a circumstance both major political parties are guilty of.

As early as the 1936 election year the world knew we were headed for World War II. In spite of this fact, F.D.R. made political hay assuring the nation that, "Our Boys Shall never Fight on Foreign Soil". He fortified the boast by failing to prepare the country for what was to be an inevitable event. The façade was maintained right up to the fateful day in 1941.

The warning signs have been there for years in this latest sneak attack. We should have known that ultimately we would face another threat to the Trade Center or an equally important symbol. We spent billions on security to prevent what happened to the twin towers.

Again, a great many people were not doing their jobs. In all fairness I concede their work was compromised by the country's fanatical pursuit of civil rights and political correctness goals. Past events have given us several examples of the downside of this controversial legislation. Prohibitions against racial profiling had to work in favor of the hijackers and serve as only one example of its pitfalls.

In both attacks the case can be made that political considerations were placed above the safety and welfare of the nation.

We have only recently learned the Israelis long ago instituted security measures that would have thwarted the attack on the towers. Their pilots are armed and the cockpit doors are secured. It would have been politically incorrect for anyone in our government to suggest we do the same. Someone might make the point that guns do save more lives than they take.

The parallels end with it comes to who our enemy is in this latest attack. Osama Bin Laden may be the prime suspect, but no one will ever know who all his accomplices are. They can never all be brought to justice and others will willingly take the place of those who are. This terror campaign like several others around the world will be endless with no clear resolution in sight.

There is only one sure conclusion that can reasonably be derived from this latest episode. Our way of life as we have known it has been changed forever.