

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2005

Robert Duffy
President, Universal Press Syndicate
4520 Main Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Dear Mr. Duffy:

We write to you today to express our disgust and outrage over the repeated ethnic slurs that have become a regular feature in the writing of one of your columnists, Ms. Ann Coulter. The most recent occurrence was in Ms. Coulter's February 23rd column, wherein she impugned the patriotism, loyalty and dignity of Arab-Americans.

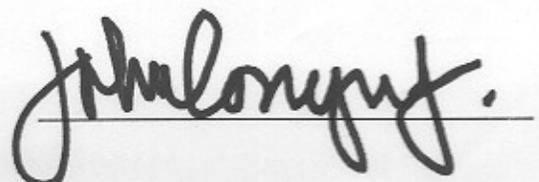
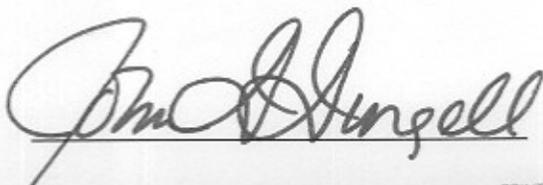
Writing on the recent Jeff Gannon controversy, Ms. Coulter stated, "Press passes can't be that hard to come by if the White House allows that old Arab Helen Thomas to sit within yards of the president." This racist screed comes on the heels of other hurtful and offensive comments she has made that trivialize the internment of Japanese Americans and advocated an American-led massacre in Arab nations.

Since the horrible events of September 11, patriotic, law-abiding Arab-American citizens have borne an ever increasing amount of harassment, discrimination and hate-crimes. In the face of increasing discrimination, loyal Arab-Americans have made heroic contributions to our military, intelligence, and Homeland Security efforts serving in the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, and assisting America in the war on terror by providing vital services in the backrooms of the NSA, CIA, and FBI.

We fully understand that the marketplace of ideas demands that political columnists be provocative and free to express their political beliefs no matter how controversial. However, racial and ethnic slurs have no place in our political discourse, and serve only to incite fear, hatred and bigotry. As Ms. Coulter's distributor, Universal Press must take some responsibility her columns' content. We note that as UPS sent out Ms. Coulter's piece, the anti-Arab slur was edited out in many publications. But the original may be accessed through the UPS website. The damage that has been done can not be repaired by casual editing. Just as we would expect that similar slights against African-Americans, Jews, or Hispanics would not be tolerated, equal disapproval should be shown towards these repeated slanders directed at Arab-Americans.

It is our sincere hope that Universal Press Syndicate will disavow itself of Ms. Coulter's hateful statements, and apologize to the Arab-American community.

Sincerely,



Maureen Dineen

Carolyn B. Maloney

Nit Rahall

Jim Oberstar

Gary Ackerman

Marey Kaptur

Ann. J. Jefferson

Jan Schakowsky

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick

Jana Zshoo

Sue Israel

Bill Pascrell

Albee K. Hosty

Flowers

John A. Waxman

Donald M. Payne

Lynn C. Woolsey

Howard L. Berman

Rick W. Allee

Tammy Baldwin

Lois Capps

Bob Delfino

Louise M. Slaughter

Tom Lantos