

FRIDAY BRIEF

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Lott to Step Down as GOP Leader

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss) announced this morning that he is stepping down from his leadership post. Lott said he would serve the four years left in his term, thus helping to ensure that the Republican Party maintains control of the Senate.

Lott had come under fire for comments he made on December 5th in support of Strom Thurmond's pro-segregation presidential campaign in 1948. Lott had battled to keep his leadership job, but in the past week a growing number of GOP senators had stated that if he stayed, he would severely damage the party. His resignation comes a day after Senator Bill Frist (R-Tenn) launched a campaign to oust him.

In a written statement, Lott said "In the interest of pursuing the best possible agenda for the future of our country, I will not seek to remain as majority leader of the United States Senate for the 108th Congress, effective January 6, 2003.

Happy Holidays from II

The Islamic Institute, its Board of Directors and staff extend their best wishes to their friends and supporters during this holiday season. May the holidays bring peace and tranquility to our nation and to the world. Happy Holidays!!