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NEWS

McCain cancels La. trip; Jindal denies VP rumors

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By **MARK BALLARD**
Advocate Capitol News Bureau
Published: Jul 24, 2008 - Page: 1A - **UPDATED: 12:05 a.m.**

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U.S. Sen. John McCain canceled a visit Wednesday to Louisiana that the national media had been reporting earlier this week as possibly having vice presidential implications.

After the announcement, Gov. Bobby Jindal said in an interview that he would not be the presumptive Republican presidential candidate's running mate.

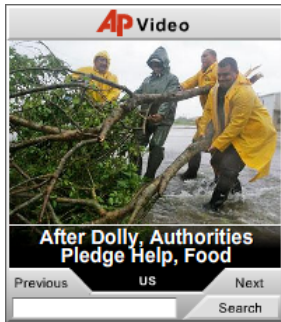
Both Jindal and McCain's campaign spokesman denied the national media speculation that McCain possibly would choose a GOP vice presidential candidate this week and that the trip to New Orleans could mean that Louisiana's 37-year-old governor was the choice.

McCain's trip to Louisiana was a campaign event to contrast McCain's plans to lower gasoline prices with ideas being forwarded by the expected Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama, a U.S. senator from Illinois, said Tom Kise, McCain's campaign spokesman. Jindal agreed.

Jindal said he never has spoken directly to McCain about being the GOP's vice presidential nominee. However, in



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conversations with officials inside McCain's campaign, Jindal said he told them repeatedly that he is not interested in being vice president.

"I'm not going to be the nominee," Jindal said in an interview Wednesday. "He's not going to offer it to me. And I've told them, I've made it clear in all our conversations, private and public, every conversation, that I've got the job that I want."

Jindal became governor in January after winning election in the October primary. Jindal said he wants to remain Louisiana's governor.

Jindal frequently appears on national television programs discussing McCain's policies and positions.

"I support him. His positions on national security and energy production are more in line with the majority view of American voters," Jindal said.

Jindal's name popped up as a serious candidate for vice president when in May the governor visited McCain's Sedona, Ariz., ranch along with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. The weekend was billed as purely social but that didn't stop conservative bloggers and talk-radio hosts from speculating that Jindal was on McCain's short list.

CNN reported Tuesday that McCain's visit to Louisiana would feature a private discussion with Jindal. At the same time, CNN and syndicated columnist Robert Novak quoted unnamed McCain aides as saying top campaign officials were discussing the possibility of naming a running mate this week.

McCain was scheduled to arrive late Wednesday night and meet with Jindal at his hotel near the New Orleans airport, Kise said. Then this morning, the plans called for both Jindal and McCain to fly out to an offshore oil rig for a campaign event aimed at drawing the difference between McCain's and Obama's energy policies, Kise said.

McCain and the Republicans have been pushing for more drilling for crude oil, particularly in offshore areas. Democrats, also support increased drilling but with more discretion.

Jindal said as far as he knew, the visit was only a campaign event that would illustrate differences in energy policies.

"We were tentatively scheduled to meet tonight (Wednesday night)," Jindal said late Wednesday afternoon. "We never fully confirmed that."

Hurricane weather in the Gulf of Mexico caused McCain to call off the visit, said Kise, McCain's spokesman.

Kise said he doesn't know what McCain is planning as far as choosing a vice presidential running mate and whether the subject would have come up during the visit with Jindal.

CNN also reported Wednesday that an unnamed McCain

aide said Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, visited McCain headquarters in suburban Washington, D.C.

Comments (18)

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Former Republican
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
3:51 AM

MITTMENTUM! FEEL IT!....No, seriously, Jindal was never a player. McSame's just got Jindal on the line to learn what he should tell the people of Louisiana to get them to vote...McSame - 2008!

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gmo
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
5:34 AM

We ought to all write McCain encouraging him to pick Jindal as VP...that way, he leaves his current job and Landrieu takes over...all Jindal's appointments are booted out...come November, Jindal is jobless and the state O Louisiana is saved!

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DieHardRep
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
7:02 AM

Yeah, gmo, that's a great idea. We did so well with Blank-O and Landrieu at the helm. Right? [insert sound of crickets chirping here...]

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joe
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
7:09 AM

Who is McSame?

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badbiker
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
7:41 AM

McSame --- The burger place at the corner of Sherwood and N. Harrells Ferry Rd

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badbiker
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
7:48 AM

Reasons why Jendal does not want to be VP 1. He does not think McCain will win 2. If VP under McCain, he will be associated with McCain's policies (he is too smart for McCain) 3. He does not like playing second fiddle 4. He wants to distance himself with time from the pay raise problem (maybe they will forget) 5. He wants more experience, as he has seen some of Barry's problems at the perception of little or no experience.

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Gina
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
7:56 AM

Do you honestly think that McCain was going to pick Jindal as a V.P.? I don't believe it for one moment. A 37 yr. old V.P. give me a break. That ticket would read like this, old & ugly, young & stupid.

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Chris
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
8:18 AM

For the record, "I'm not going to be the nominee" either.....

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WP

gmo, if Jindal were to run as McCain's VP selection, he would still be the

Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
9:06 AM

governor of Louisiana. He would only leave office if he was elected as VP.

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Tom
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
9:07 AM

VP position is too much for Jindal. He can not even handle what he has. He is flip-flop in decision making already. What has he accomplished in any of the positions he has held in the State so far. As Head of Uiniversity of Louisiana System he spent all he time with the prss in photo opportunity.

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WP
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
9:41 AM

The Bush-Quayle ticket was portrayed that way in 1988. They still won. I don't think it is in Jindal's interests to be on the ticket. In spite of some comments to the contrary, he's intelligent enough to know that.

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Winston
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
10:30 AM

Sometimes minds change at the last minute, don't they?? At this point, anything would be preferable to Obama, even Landrieu!!

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james
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
10:59 AM

this is all just an attempt by the mccain camp to keep his name in the news since nothing else he is doing is news worthy....other than supporting a conflict with iran, but that'll be hidden until its too late.

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Common Sense
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
11:20 AM

I predict McCain is going to surprise everybody by choosing Joe Lieberman. He's his new BFF....

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>
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
11:32 AM

I feel that Jindal would be a quality choice for McCain. Jindal's only major+++ criticism came from not vetoing a pay raise. Other than that, he has been++++ solid.++++
++++
++++
While Jindal may still be young with a thinner resume than Obama or Clinton, he has been a success leader so far with so much more potential. Jindal+++ should be considered for the VP, and would no doubt be an unregrettable+++ choice.++++
++++
++++
P.S. Since you can't do paragraphs, I am trying this new format-hope it works!

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dani
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
11:37 AM

I'm happy maybe it's selfish. I think I have a good idea what Jindal is. Maybe he's saying what Hillary said.

Report Violation

dani
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
12:06 PM

More important, Jindal knows what he is. Maybe he should move on. It would help us somehow. Could he fix the Landrieu problem before he goes?

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dani
Thursday, Jul 24, 2008
12:07 PM

Former Ronald Reagan Republican here.

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