

WATCH IT !

With the best intentions in the world, over-zealousness on the part of a government can prove to be very wearisome.

Take the latest faux pas on the part of the Government of the United States of America.

The US Congress, recently, determined, in its wisdom, to federalize all screeners at airports in the US and on territories, under control of the US Government.

Then followed The Transport Security Administration, determining that it acceded to the challenge and that all screeners had to be US citizens because such a regulation was, in itself, discriminatory.

However, it was made very clear by the powers-that-be that the screeners may not racially profile anybody.

Which, on the surface, appears to be in keeping with the Constitution of the United States.

The US citizen screeners, presumably, will continue to conduct random searches of 80-year-old ladies, little children who carry dolls and drawing books, airline pilots with all the correct documentation, Secret Service Agents, who have been assigned to board a particular airplane in order to ensure the safety of the occupants, along with US Congressmen with metal hips.

All this is done in order to prevent that which transpired on September 11, 2001 in New York and Washington when Muslim extremists killed thousands of people in order to punish the US and its citizens.

In 1979, the US Embassy in Iran was taken over. Remember that incident?

Can any TARGET reader recall who, or what organisation, occupied that Embassy?

Was it (a) Russians from Moscow, looking for bagels? (b) A busload of elderly ladies from Springfield, Illinois? (c) Lee Kuan Yew, going through his man-o-pause? or (d) Muslim male extremists, between the ages of 17 years and 40 years?

In 1983, the US Marine barracks at Beirut, Lebanon, was blown up. Remember that incident?

Can any TARGET reader recall who, or what organisation, did that deed?

Was it (a) A pizza delivery girl? (b) A rabbi from Toronto, Canada, looking for some glatt Kosher food? (c) The Portuguese Organisation for the Liberation of Goa, India? or (d) Muslim male extremists, between the ages of 17 years and 40 years?

In 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 was destroyed, mid-air. Remember that incident?

Can any TARGET reader recall who, or what organisation, did that deed?

Was it (a) Jesse James' ghost, trying out something new? (b) Elizabeth Taylor, taking out her anger at not being given a nude part in the movie, The Beautiful Mind? (c) The Boogiemans, doing his thing? or (d) Muslim male extremists, between the ages of 17 years and 40 years?

In 1998, the US Embassies at Kenya and Tanzania were destroyed. Remember those incidents?

Can any TARGET reader recall who, or what organisation, did those deeds?

Was it (a) Mike Tyson, looking for somebody's ear to bite off? (b) Chairman Mao Zedong, having risen from the dead, complete with the People's Liberation Army in toe? (c) Will Rogers, who never died at all, but still rides in the dead of night? or (d) Muslim male extremists, between the ages of 17 years and 40 years?

Then, on September 11, 2001, 4 US airlines were skyjacked and, subsequently destroyed. Two of those airlines were purposely crashed into the World Trade Center, one airline was purposely crashed into The Pentagon, and one airline crashed into a field. Remember those incidents?

Can any TARGET reader recall who, or what organisation, did those deeds?

Was it (a) Irving Washington's the headless horseman of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow? (b) An irate visitor to Disneyland who could not enter the House of Horrors? (c) Orson Wells, up to one of his old stunts, again, in his famous movie, Touch of Evil? Or (d) Muslim male extremists, between the ages of 17 years and 40 years?

Now, getting back to those airport screeners, one wonders whether or not they would be able to detect a common denominator in the above 5 multiple-question exercise.

One does not have to be a Sherlock Holmes to realise that, in all cases, (d) is the correct answer.

While it may well be correct that, generally speaking, racial profiling is wrong for coppers in cars and/or coppers on the beat, for airport screeners, one has to ask oneself: Should they be taking special care with those people, who have the appearance of being Semite males and females, between the ages of 17 years and 40 years – especially if those Semites appear to be bulky in the waistline, where sticks of dynamite could be strapped?

Because these people may well not be too interested in the in-flight movie or whether or not Kosher food was being served.

It would appear that examining people of this type would be more fruitful than tackling aging US Congressmen with metal hips, or elderly women, who have not the strength to carry their own bags, or little children, who have only recently been weaned off mother's milk.

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