

CNN Commentator Lord Attempts to Defend his Likening of Trump to King

by: **David Bauder** | AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN commentator Jeffrey Lord tweeted clips of speeches from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in the overnight hours Friday, capping a strange day where he stepped on a third rail of American politics by suggesting viewers think of President Donald Trump as “the Martin Luther King of health care.”

Lord made his comparison on CNN’s morning “New Day” on Thursday and ended the day in a shouting match with CNN’s Don Lemon. He was the subject of social media derision and outrage during the hours in between, illustrating what some critics suggest is cable television’s ability to bring heat, if not light, to an issue.

Lord, a political commentator and contributor to the American Spectator who worked in the final years of the Reagan White House, is one of a handful of pro-Trump commentators that CNN hired during the last election. Generally amiable, he’s gotten into a few rough exchanges with

other CNN pundits, most notably Van Jones on election night.

Fellow commentator Symone Sanders’ eyes widened in astonishment when Lord first equated Trump with the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner. “There is no similarity,” she said.

Lord explained in a column he later wrote for CNN.com that he was equating a reported Trump threat to withhold payments to health insurers in order to get Democrats to the negotiating table on health care reform with King’s demonstrations as a tactic to force congressional action on civil rights in the 1960s.

“Both men used or are threatening to use crisis to pass legislation,” he wrote. “There is nothing in the least wrong in saying so.”

Lord said during his appearance on Lemon’s show that “there are no people of color. There are only Americans,” a view that Black commentators said was naive and didn’t reflect their lives. During one testy exchange, Lord

compared Lemon, who is Black, to Bull Connor, the former Birmingham, Alabama public safety commissioner who fought civil rights marches.

Lemon said Lord had ignored why many had considered the comparison between Trump and King insulting. When Lord noted that his father once lost a job for standing in defense of a Black waitress, Lemon shot back to drop the “before the war crap.”

“Dr. King means something different to the people who are sitting here than he meant to you,” Lemon said. “He wasn’t just a tactic for us. He is a real person who helped me to be able to get here and Symone to be able to sit here and for Bakari (Sellers) to be able to sit here. For you to come on and give some reckless comparison to his legacy...”

When Lord tried to interrupt, Lemon stopped him. “We’re done,” he said.

Lord later went on Twitter to post speeches by King, calling him “a hero

unafraid to oppose judging by skin color.”

While the Lord controversy angered some observers, it depressed others. It’s hardly the first time someone has said something provocative on cable news. But the incident brought new attention to the extent to which CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC — at a time of particularly strong ratings — talk about the news rather than report it.

A former CNN anchor who took her disgust to Twitter, Soledad O’Brien, said in an interview there were more productive ways for the network to spend its time. There are plenty of Trump voters who feel unease about health care and Republicans who have serious concerns about the government’s role in the insurance market, she said. Why not talk to them?

“This is not about journalism,” said O’Brien, host of the syndicated Sunday news program “Matter of Fact.” “This is about putting on a side-show. It’s a car crash.”

Another former CNN



In this Dec. 15, 2016, photo, CNN commentator Jeffrey Lord, appears at a rally for President-elect Donald Trump in Hershey, Pa. Lord made a comparison of Trump to Martin Luther King Jr., on CNN’s morning “New Day.” He is one of a handful of pro-Trump commentators that CNN hired during the last election. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

commentator, Roland Martin, tweeted that Lord is doing exactly what CNN executives want him to do — attract attention.

“Executives there want Jeffrey Lord’s nutty comments. Why? To keep you talking and tweeting,”

said Martin, the TV One personality who allegedly tipped off the Clinton campaign in advance last year about a question that would be posed at a forum.

CNN declined comment on the issue Friday.

Travis County Clerk, Dana DeBeauvoir named to National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on the Future of Voting: Accessible, Reliable, Verifiable Technology

Austin, TX — Travis County Clerk, Dana DeBeauvoir has been named to serve on the Future of Voting committee formed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). DeBeauvoir’s first meeting with the committee will be June 12-13, 2017.

DeBeauvoir will be serving on a committee with a variety of distinguished academics, professionals and critical thinkers. Co-chairing the committee are Lee C. Bollinger, President of Columbia University and Michael A. McRobbie, President of Indiana University. Committee mem-



Dana DeBeauvoir

bers include cryptographers, professors of math, computer science, engineering, law and political science from Princeton, Stanford, MIT, Carnegie Mellon and Tufts University.

Following her personal commitment to ex-

cellence in voting technology, DeBeauvoir has been involved in many organizations that promote and encourage exploration of accessible, reliable, verifiable and secure voting technology.

Founded in 1863, NASEM marshals the energy and intellect of the nation’s critical thinkers to respond to policy challenges with science, engineering, and medicine at their core.

NASEM brings together experts from across disciplines to look at the evidence with fresh eyes and openness to insights from other fields. These study committees survey the landscape of relevant

Classes put into context the events of Hidden Figures

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outcomes. *Hidden Figures* is ideally suited for use in the classroom, but teachers want students to do more with a film than passively view it. These interdisciplinary lessons can be used independently or through a team approach that gives students multiple lenses through which to consider the relevant historical and contemporary issues raised by the film.

For social studies classes, the first few les-

sons in this guide explore the context in which the events of *Hidden Figures* occur: the pressure-filled milieu in which the women at Langley were working, the vital role served by the “human computers” in the space program, and the beginning of the modern civil rights movement. Math and science lessons explore scientific notation, conic sections, orbits, and programming, and additional lessons analyze the

film for theme and style.

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment is pleased to provide a complimentary DVD copy of the film to U.S. high schools. Teachers are encouraged to visit www.foxconnect.com/hiddenfiguresdvd for details on eligibility and how to redeem for a free DVD copy.

Download curriculum guide free of charge: journeysinfilm.org/films/hidden-figures

research, hold public meetings to gather information, and deliberate to reach consensus, which results in a shared understanding of what the evidence reveals and the best path forward. Through a meticulous process of information collection, evidence analysis, and deliberation, NASEM’s studies provide blueprints for

progress.

Committee deliberations and conclusions are shielded from influence by sponsors and special interests and make certain each report undergoes rigorous peer review to ensure the advice is grounded in the best available evidence. This provides policy makers assurance that the results re-

flect the facts and the combined expertise of the science, engineering, and medical communities. Support for the NASEM Committee on the Future of Voting: Accessible, Reliable, Verifiable Technology is provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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NORTHLOOP APARTMENTS WAITING LIST CLOSURE

The closure of the waiting list for Northloop Apartments has been extended to May 22nd, 2017 at 5:00 pm CST. If you are interested in applying for the Northloop waiting list, please visit www.hacaapply.org before **May 22nd, 2017 at 5:00 pm CST**. New applications will not be accepted while the waiting list is closed.

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin will regularly review the status of each property’s waiting list and monitor estimated wait times. Public notice will be provided at least 30 days in advance of re-opening any waiting lists.



The Housing Authority of the City of Austin does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, marital status, familial status, national origin, age, pregnancy, disability, ancestry, or sexual orientation in the access to, admission into, or employment in, housing programs or activities. The position below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s regulations implementing Section 504. Position: Pilar Sanchez, Vice President of Housing and Community Development, Address: 1124 S. IH 35, Austin, TX 78704, Telephone: (512) 477-4488; TTY (800) 735-2989, o 7-1-1