

Jersey publisher pleaded no contest to charges of libel filed by the authorities. They claimed that it had been a case of mistaken identity.

But Kuchel later said, "It damaged me. Even though the perpetrators took a plea, it hurt me."

Some political insiders felt that the senator lost much of his zest for political life after that episode. But there appeared to be other reasons as well for his inability to put on a dynamic defense of his seat when he was challenged by Rafferty in the 1968 GOP primary.

As Kuchel admitted, "My Achilles' heel was money raising. I hated to indulge in it, and my campaign expenditures usually were the lowest amount of anyone."

With Rafferty charging hard, declaring up and down the state that Kuchel was not a true Republican, the senator seemed on the defensive, and often inarticulately so. A dispatch by then-Times political writer Richard Bergholz said of the incumbent:

"He talked in generalities, haltingly, with little force or emphasis. . . . (He) later conceded that he was something less than brilliant. . . . 'I was tired,' he explained. . . . It was midafternoon on the campaign day which had only one appearance earlier in the day."

When the votes were in, on a primary day most remembered for the assassination that night in Los Angeles of Democratic presidential contender Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Rafferty had defeated Kuchel by 69,000 votes of 2.2 million cast.

The senator went to New York to attend Kennedy's funeral. There, he ran into an aging Warren, who only a year later was to retire as chief justice. He told Kuchel, "I just feel so badly about your defeat, I can't talk about it."

As he left the Senate, Kuchel expressed pride in his record, even though it appeared to have contributed to his loss.

"Some of the votes I have cast I know have been very costly to me politically," he told the Senate on Oct. 14, 1968, in his formal farewell. "I think, however, if there is one measure of satisfaction in the life of a legislator, it comes at the time he tallies the votes which he believed in his own mind were right, just and appropriate, even if he knew that the balance of public opinion was against him, and, sometimes, violently against him. . . ."

"I think it is not only permissible but, indeed, vital that the Senate of the United States lead public opinion instead of following it. That is the difficult path but the only one to tread if our republic is to remain."

Shortly afterward, Kuchel joined the law firm headed by Eugene Wyman, a former Democratic National Committee member from California. After several years of representing the firm in Washington, he returned home to California and practiced law with the firm in Los Angeles until his retirement as a partner in 1981, although he continued to be active.

TWO SIKH MEN DETAINED AFTER FLIGHT—RACIAL PROFILING MUST BE STOPPED

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2002

Mrs. MCKINNEY Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to read that two Sikh men were detained after a flight simply for using the bath-

room. This is ethnic profiling of the worst kind and it must be stopped.

Apparently, what happened was that the two men, Gurdeep Wander and Harinder Pal Singh, were flying to Las Vegas for a convention and they missed their connection. They were a bit late the next morning so they ran onto the plane. Apparently, this made the flight crew suspicious.

Then Mr. Singh, Mr. Wander, and another man, who was Hispanic, used the same bathroom on the plane. When Mr. Singh, the last of the three, went to use it, the flight attendant tried to convince him that it was locked and unavailable. She claimed that she had read that people could make bombs in the bathrooms by bringing the parts on separately. I wonder if three white people using the bathroom in quick succession would have made her think the same thing.

After the plane made an emergency landing, the two Sikh men and an Egyptian man were detained on the plane while police dogs surrounded it and sniffed for weapons. Then the Sikh men were arrested for interfering with a flight crew.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of Transportation must take appropriate action against this airline and its discriminatory employees. This kind of racial profiling cannot be allowed. I call on the Secretary of Transportation to take appropriate steps to end this racist practice and to make sure that the victims of this incident are fully compensated. We must make it clear that we will not tolerate racial profiling.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has written a letter to Secretary Mineta asking him to take appropriate action in response to this incident. I would like to place that letter into the RECORD now.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, October 8, 2002.

Hon. NORMAN MINETA
Secretary of Transportation,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY MINETA: I am writing to you to protest an incident of racial profiling against Sikhs that occurred on a Northwest Airlines flight on September 11. Gurdeep Wander and Haninder Pal Singh, two men of Sikh descent, were headed to a convention in Las Vegas on a Northwest Airlines flight after missing a previous connecting flight in Minneapolis.

Mr. Wander and Mr. Singh chose to fly on September 10 to avoid flying on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. However, they missed their connecting flight so they had to stay overnight in Minneapolis. They were then placed on a flight on the morning of the September 11. Mr. Wander and Mr. Singh were late for their flight. They rushed on board the plane, which the flight attendant apparently regarded as suspicious. All that the two Sikh men carried was the shaving kits that they had been given by the airline. Their luggage had already been forwarded to Las Vegas. Would the flight attendants regard white men rushing onto the flight as suspicious? I don't think so.

The flight attendants' suspicion was apparently further aroused when right after Mr. Singh and Mr. Wander, a Hispanic man named Carlos Nieves rushed onto the plane.

Shortly before departure, Mr. Wander got out of his seat and got the shaving kit the airline had given him. He took it with him to the bathroom. When Mr. Wander had been in the bathroom a few minutes, a flight attendant asked him to sit down. He asked for a minute to finish up what he was doing. When Mr. Wander came out, Mr. Nieves went to

use the bathroom. Mr. Singh was next to use it. The flight attendant tried to prevent Mr. Singh from using the restroom, claiming that it was locked. She later claimed that she had read that explosive devices could be assembled on the flight if separate individuals carried the components.

After the plane made an emergency landing in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Mr. Singh, Mr. Wander, and a Muslim from Egypt named Alaaeldin Abdelsalam were detained. The plane was surrounded by bomb-sniffing dogs and all the luggage was taken out of the plane.

Secretary Mineta, this is clearly racial profiling and it must not be allowed. I urge you to take appropriate corrective action to correct the abuse of Mr. Singh, Mr. Wander, Mr. Abdelsalam, and Mr. Nieves. I also respectfully request that you issue an urgent directive banning racial profiling on any U.S. flight. Since these airlines are regulated by your department and your department controls airport security, you must act to ensure that every passenger is treated equally and fairly. Please take appropriate action to correct this situation today. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President.

JOE SKEEN FEDERAL BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5427, the Joe Skeen Federal Building Designation Act, which names the federal building in Roswell, New Mexico after JOE SKEEN.

After over two decades serving in this House, JOE SKEEN is retiring and heading back to his ranch in New Mexico. JOE SKEEN has had a truly impressive career here in the U.S. House. He came to Congress as a write-in candidate, one of the few Members that have been elected in this manner. In 2001, JOE SKEEN became the longest serving New Mexico House Member.

I have had the honor of serving with JOE SKEEN through most of his career, and I have had the pleasure of working with him on the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. He has been stalwart in protecting private property rights for our citizens, and understands the needs for striking a balance between conservation efforts and for supporting local economies. JOE SKEEN is a friend to both farmers and ranchers, and has been a champion to the lamb and wool industry.

In his 22 years in the House, JOE SKEEN has been one of the most ardent supporters of states' rights. He has kept the mind set that those closest to the people make the best decisions on how to use federal dollars. He has worked diligently to improve business development in southern New Mexico by incorporating private industry, various federal agencies and New Mexico's institutions of higher learning into partnerships. Such examples of this can be seen in the establishment of the International Law Enforcement Academy in Roswell, and the landmine detection and disarming program and the New Mexico Institute of Technology.