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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2004

### Feeding Paranoia -- Over Incompetence

by Michael in New York on 8/04/2004 03:01:00 AM

So now Bush officials are backing off Monday's backing off over the urgency of the terror alert and saying, um, actually, we have **very current scary information** about a possible terrorist attack and that's why we raised the alert level to orange. So why the hell did they send mixed signals on Monday?

Rule #1: Don't make political plugs for the President's reelection when announcing a terrorist alert! It undermines your authority and makes reasonable people question your motives.

Rule #2: Don't back off from the seriousness of the alert if you have compelling, current information. If people realize some of it is old, just say there is also information that is separate and very current and compelling. This threat should be taken very seriously.

End of story. And then we wouldn't have had three days of back and forth and confusion.



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### HOT OFF THE WIRE

**HuffPost Politics**

Lincoln Leaves Door Open For EFCA Compromise - Senator Blanche Lincoln on Monday announced that she would vote against the Employee Free Choice Act. But later she elaborated, leaving the door open for...  
 34 seconds ago

**Daily Kos**

Beck: Daily Kos, C&L blame me for cop killer - Because it's all about him, right? How self-absorbed can one man possibly be? (This video is from Beck's April 6, 2009 broadcast. The still image is of ...  
 12 minutes ago

**Eschaton**

Deep Thought - When my house gets foreclosed I'll probably be pretty happy if there's a reeducation camp I can go to.  
 26 minutes ago

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Vermont Governor Jim Douglas Vetoes Same-Sex Marriage Bill - As promised, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas has vetoed a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in the state. He release a statement, which read, in part...  
 26 minutes ago

**Firedoglake**

Why Can't Obama's Economic Team Explain Itself? - Given the embarrassing performance of the Obama economic team over the weekend, we're left wondering what useful expertise the public got from Larry Summer...  
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