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"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." - John 8:32

Lott and McCurry tangle over homosexuality, 'sin'

By Nancy E. Roman
The Washington Times

The White House mixed it up with the Republican leadership in Congress on June 16 on the theological fine points of whether the practice of homosexuality is a sin.

Sen. Trent Lott, the majority leader in the Senate, and Rep. Dick Armey, the majority leader in the House, said yes, it is.

Michael McCurry, the president's

press secretary, called Mr. Lott "awkward" in his views and suggested his opinion was irrational.

The Republican leaders cited Bible verses. Mr. McCurry appeared to rely on a vote by the American

Psychiatric Association, as well as his boss's view that the subject is no longer a matter for conscience, but for science.

Mr. McCurry said the president, in the past, has acknowl-

edged that views on matters such as homosexuality are a matter of conscience. But, he said, "this is a case in which, contrary to statements of the medical community and those who

'Sex science' of Dr. Alfred Kinsey is to blame

For the facts about Kinsey, see page A5

Is Senator Lott 'oblivious to the facts'?

For point-counterpoint editorials, see page A4

are experts, the majority leader has taken an incorrect view that homosexuality is a disease."

Mr. Lott fired back, telling Mr. McCurry that he was not qualified to tell the public what's right or wrong in matters of conscience.

In a statement at day's end, given to reporters by Susan Irby, his communications director, Mr. Lott said: "Mr. McCurry's experience within

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