Charlotteecom

Posted on Thu, Jan. 31, 2008

Inglis agrees he had 'faulty umbrella intelligence'

U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis went on the parody news show "The Colbert Report" and agreed he used "faulty umbrella intelligence" in a letter he sent to President Bush criticizing the troop surge in Iraq.

Inglis was the first congressman from South Carolina to sit down for one of Stephen Colbert's tonguein-cheek interviews for his show on Comedy Central.

During the Wednesday night show, Colbert quoted from a letter Inglis wrote to Bush where the Republican said the surge would increase the size of America's "security umbrella." Inglis wrote he wanted all Iraqi factions to "see us reaching for the button that would bring that umbrella down. I want them to imagine the click of that button and the feel of the wind from the descending umbrella."

Holding an umbrella, Colbert said most go up when the button is clicked and asked Inglis if his metaphor was based on "faulty umbrella intelligence."

"I should have said clicker rather than button, so I guess it was faulty intelligence," replied Inglis, who said the surge has been a military success.

Colbert also asked Inglis if he had a BMW made at the automaker's Greer plant ("No, I wish," was Inglis' reply) and asked Inglis to explain his comment that he thinks homosexuals aren't out to destroy traditional marriages.

"I think it's obvious we've had some challenges with marriage and it's us heterosexuals who seem to be having a lot of trouble with marriages," Inglis said.

Inglis represents South Carolina's 4th District, which includes much of the conservative Upstate.