

Candidates weigh in on world affairs; Senate hopefuls agree on Iraq but clash on Cuba, free trade,

By Bill Walsh

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(excerpt)

Court controversy

In foreign policy issues, [Democrat Mary] Landrieu was the only candidate to support the International Criminal Court. She tempered her support with the caveat that U.S. soldiers should have "specific protection from unjust and unwarranted prosecutions."

The other three candidates opposed such a court for the very reason that U.S. service members could face criminal prosecution from hostile nations.

Terrell said she would not support such a tribunal unless the United States had veto power over prosecutions. [U.S. Rep. (R) John] Cooksey said U.S. soldiers abroad should not have to worry about being criminally prosecuted for what the United States views as a peace-keeping mission.

[State (R) Rep. Tony] Perkins likewise opposed the court and voiced skepticism about all such international bodies.

"Generally these organizations are used by countries hostile to America as a means of forcing American interests," Perkins said. "We also have seen what international organizations have to offer: little more than new bureaucracy and wasted tax dollars."