

Sen. Scott Beason apologizes for comments revealed during bingo trial (video)

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By [Kim Chandler](#)




State Sen. Scott Beason (Special)

GARDENDALE, Alabama -- Sen. Scott Beason, R-Gardendale, this

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Plaintiffs Exhibit 298

afternoon apologized for using the word "aborigine" to describe people at a casino in a predominately black county.



"My purpose today is to say that I am very sorry and I apologize to anyone whose feelings were hurt by my comment," Beason said at a press conference at the Gardendale Civic Center.

"As I have stated before, I do not know where that word came from or why it popped in my head that day. Netherless, the comments were careless and unnecessary," Beason said.

The comments came to light during the summer's vote-buying trial. Beason wore a wire for the FBI and the recording equipment also captured Beason and other Republicans talking about Greenetrack

and economic development in Greene County.

"That's y'all's Indian's," said then Rep. Benjamin Lewis of Dothan,.

"They're aborigines, but they're not Indians," Beason retorted.

Beason remains chairman of the powerful Senate Rules Committee which sets the debate agenda in the Senate. Some senators had asked Beason to step down or to be stripped of the chairmanship.

Senator Vivian Figures , D-Mobile, called on Beason to resign as Rules Chairman.

"Senator Beason's racist remarks show that he is not an objective and fair-minded leader. For him to remain as Rules Chair is a clear message that the Republican Senators all condone his racist remarks. Racism should have no place in the Alabama Senate. It is in the best interest of all Alabamians that he resign immediately," Figures said today in a prepared statement.

Beason said he thought he could remain an effective committee chairman despite the controversy.