

Patriot Act

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. LABRADOR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, during the past week, we have heard about a series of major violations of our civil liberties, including the fact that NSA is collecting the phone records of tens of millions of Americans. This wholesale snooping on innocent Americans is an unacceptable violation of one of our most basic freedoms—the right to privacy and to be free from government surveillance—and one of many unintended but predictable consequences of the USA PATRIOT Act.

I proudly voted against reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act three times because of its potential for abuse, and more people are starting to see that abuse. Even former Vice President Al Gore, not someone I normally agree with, had the right response to the NSA report. He tweeted:

In a digital era, privacy must be a priority. Is it just me, or is secret blanket surveillance obscenely outrageous?

And I tweeted back:

Crazy, but I agree!

Of course, what's happening with the NSA is just the latest example of the government abusing its power.

We've all heard about the IRS scandals, in which one of the most powerful agencies in the government deliberately targeted conservative organizations for audits and other forms of harassment.

We've all heard about what happened with FOX News reporter James Rosen, whose phone was tapped by the Justice Department even though Attorney General Eric Holder testified before the House Judiciary Committee "that potential prosecution of the press for the disclosure of material, that is not something that I have ever been involved with, heard of, or would think would be wise policy."

Needless to say, what Mr. Holder said under oath is sharply at odds with what happened to Mr. Rosen, and I joined with my Judiciary Committee colleagues in sending a letter to Mr. Holder requesting that he appear before the committee again to explain these discrepancies.

Then, just last Friday, it was reported that the NSA and the FBI are tapping directly into the central servers of nine leading U.S. Internet companies, including Google, Facebook, and YouTube. Who knows what we'll find out next.

When thinking about all these scandals, I'm reminded of what James Madison wrote in Federalist 51 in the early days of our country:

If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the government and, in the next place, oblige it to control itself.

In recent years, many Members of both parties have forgotten Mr. Madison's lesson, a lesson that infuses our founding document, the U.S. Constitution, that government powers must be limited because governments, by their very nature, have a hard time "controlling" themselves.

During the Bush years, many Republicans ignored that truth; and in the Obama era, many Democrats have ignored it, too.

What's happening with the NSA, the IRS, the DOJ, and other agencies should correct the misguided idea that it's okay to give the government more powers so long as the "right" party is in power. Because parties change. And to quote Madison again:

Enlightened statesmen will not always be at the helm.

For all of these reasons and more, I voted against the USA PATRIOT Act, which, despite its nice name, was written in such a sweeping way that it opened the door for the NSA to invade the privacy of millions of Americans. That is because the USA PATRIOT Act's section 215 allows the FBI to seek the production of "tangible things" to obtain foreign intelligence and to protect against clandestine intelligence activities.

But since it does not require that either the caller or the recipient of the call be a foreign agent or located abroad, you can see how the FBI could be tempted to collect broad swaths of data concerning Americans' phone calls to detect patterns of activity, as many analysts suggest may have happened in this case. That is why, last Thursday, I joined several of my House colleagues in sending a letter to FBI Director Mueller and NSA Director Alexander requesting more information concerning their data collection activities.

Given public outrage about the NSA's abuse of power, it is time for Congress to reexamine all sections of the USA PATRIOT Act, and I am hopeful my colleagues will join me in starting that reexamination.

Now is the time to work together to reduce the scope of government power before it becomes so large and so impenetrable that regaining our freedoms becomes almost impossible. Now is our moment, and we must seize it.

CHILDREN'S ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today is International Day Against Child Labor, which gives us the opportunity to reflect on the plight of hundreds of millions of children throughout the world who perform work that endangers their health, deprives them of an adequate education, and denies them basic freedoms and protections.

Unfortunately, the United States is not immune to the scourge of child

labor. Long hours and dangerous working conditions are, sadly, a reality for hundreds of thousands of children working in our country's fields and farms.

□ 1040

Throughout our Nation, there are children like Zulema, who at age 12 works in the fields picking fruits and vegetables, while her classmates spend afternoons doing homework and playing with friends. Despite her young age, Zulema frequently, with bare hands, wields adult-sized harvesting shears. When crop dusters fly overhead, she is often covered in pesticides meant to kill insects in the field. In spite of Zulema's exposure to these serious and dangerous conditions, she takes home to her struggling family a mere \$64 a week.

Our farming industry is alarmingly plagued by preventable tragedies like the one in Mount Carroll, Illinois, where a 14-year-old boy cleaning a grain bin suffocated to death when he was sucked into a sinkhole of flowing corn. Tragic accidents like this underscore the fact that agriculture is one of our Nation's most dangerous industries. Yet it is the only industry in which our children are not protected equally by our child labor laws.

While reserved for adults in every other occupation in agriculture, children as young as 16 are allowed to perform hazardous work, like driving tractors and operating chain saws. It is also the only industry in which children as young as 12 are allowed to labor in the fields with virtually no restrictions on the number of hours they work outside of the school day.

To address this shameful reality in our country, I am reintroducing the Children's Act for Responsible Employment, better known as the CARE Act. While retaining current exemptions that protect family farms and agricultural education programs like 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the CARE Act raises labor standards and protections for farmworker children to the same level set for children in all other occupations.

Specifically, the CARE Act ends our country's double standard that allows children employed in agriculture to work at younger ages and for longer hours than those working in all other industries. The bill raises the minimum age for agricultural work to 14 and restricts children under 16 from work that interferes with their education or endangers their health and well-being. The CARE Act also prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in agricultural jobs which the Department of Labor has declared particularly hazardous. This is consistent with current law governing every industry outside of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, no child should be discriminated against based on the work they do. All of America's children deserve to be protected equally under our laws. It is our moral obligation to do

all in our power to protect the rights, safety, and educational future of our most precious resource—America's children.

The time has come for the United States of America to bring our child labor laws in line with our American values and to give all of our children the fundamental protections they rightfully deserve. I urge my colleagues to support and to help pass the CARE Act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Colonel Andrew Gibson, Maine Army National Guard, Augusta, Maine, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we thank You for allowing us to live in a land that is free, and we thank You for the men and women who have served to ensure that freedom.

As this body convenes to create the laws of this land, might we faithfully plan for a day when war is forgotten, but that we would never forget the warriors who will have brought us to that day.

Guide us that we might through inspired legislation be a healer of all nations, a healer of our own Nation, and a healer of those who have willingly traveled far from their homes to secure our liberties, in the current generation and extending back to the formation of our great Nation.

Bless the men and women of this House. Give to them an ample portion of Your wisdom, Your courage, and especially Your love this day and forevermore.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING COLONEL ANDREW GIBSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Colonel Andrew Gibson as today's guest chaplain.

Colonel Gibson is from Pittsfield, Maine. He is a decorated veteran who served in the Maine Army National Guard for 25 years. Before being deployed to Afghanistan in 2006, he served in Bosnia in 1997 as one of the first two National Guard chaplains to ever be deployed to a hostile fire zone.

Currently, Colonel Gibson is the Joint Forces Headquarters Maine chaplain and the director of Deployment Cycle Support. In these roles, he oversees the spiritual needs of the Maine Guard's soldiers and families. He also coordinates a team of health professionals who provide support to our servicemembers, veterans, and military families.

Colonel Gibson's service also extends deep into our communities. He is a key organizer of Maine's annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast. Colonel Gibson is a true asset to our State of Maine and our country. I'm proud that he is my constituent, and it's an honor to have him deliver today's prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PATRIOT ACT

(Mr. MASSIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to implore my fellow Congressmen to wake up. Can't we see what's happening?

In just the past month, we discovered that the NSA is snooping on millions of innocent Americans using the PATRIOT Act. Congress wrote the PATRIOT Act. The IRS is targeting conservative organizations using the Tax Code. Congress created the Tax Code. And the DHS has stockpiled 200 million hollow-point bullets. Congress just funded DHS last week. Do you want me to be surprised? I'm not surprised. I'm outraged. But what's happening here? In each case of executive overreach, Congress gave an inch and the executive branch took a mile.

When our civil liberties are stolen, Congress investigates and expresses

righteous indignation, but all too often Congress then turns around and funds and enables this unconstitutional behavior. If we don't reverse this trend, we can kiss our civil liberties good-bye.

The Constitution embodies American principles that men and women fought and died to protect. We swore an oath to protect it. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to reflect on the damage that CISPA, the PATRIOT Act, and the NDAA have wrought on our civil liberties and implore my fellow Members to uphold the constitutional rights they swore to protect. Don't yield one inch.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, the pivotal days for immigration reform are before us. I am pleased that a bipartisan group of Senators have come together in a compromise that could finally create a roadmap to citizenship for the 11 million people in this Nation who have worked hard and contributed to the success of this Nation. We are a Nation founded by immigrants and working families. It's what makes this country strong.

Let us not forget that nearly every American family has its own immigration story. We all pledge allegiance to the same American flag, and we all hope to achieve the same American Dream.

Our Nation's immigration system is broken. This is our chance to get it right. Let's get it right for those young DREAMers, let's get it right for the tireless working mothers and fathers, let's get it right for same-sex families stuck on opposite sides of the border. Together we can build an effective, fair, and inclusive system that lives up to our heritage as a Nation of immigrants. Let's get it right this time.

THE BUCK MUST STOP SOMEWHERE

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, where is the accountability? From Benghazi to the IRS to the Justice Department monitoring reporter emails, the trust Americans should have in their government is being shaken, and for good reason.

It's unfortunate we're spending time and resources searching for answers from our own leaders. Americans have questions like: Has the President been completely transparent about the Benghazi attacks? Who ordered the IRS to target conservative groups? Were more reporters monitored by the Justice Department, more than just the AP and FOX News? Did Attorney General Eric Holder mislead the U.S. Congress?