

But getting back to the latest news—the leak to ProPublica—let's be clear about what this means: the IRS is forbidden from providing that kind of information about groups that have not been approved. It is a bright line prohibition that even the lowliest staffers at the IRS surely should know about.

We intend to find out all the relevant details. Yesterday, I said the administration needs to comply fully with all congressional inquiries on the matter. This ProPublica leak will unquestionably be one of them. The administration needs to make witnesses available to testify on this and on any other incident of targeting the administration's ideological opponents, and to resist the temptation to stonewall or obfuscate what took place.

Today, other Senate Republicans are joining me in this call. More than 40 members have signed a letter demanding as much of the President.

If the President is truly concerned about this issue, as he claims, he will work openly and transparently with us to get to the bottom of what happened and people will be held accountable. These allegations are serious—that there was an effort to bring the power of the Federal Government to bear on those the administration disagreed with, in the middle of a heated national election. It actually could be criminal. And we are determined to get answers.

Again, let's not forget that we would not know any of this if congressional Republicans had not demanded better answers than the ones we were getting from the administration. When I and several of my colleagues wrote to the IRS last year seeking clarification on allegations that they were harassing conservative groups, the response we got was essentially: nothing to see here, move along.

When I pressed the issue in a speech last June, the left either ridiculed the suggestion or ignored it. When IRS officials were asked point blank in congressional hearings whether this was happening, they said point blank that it wasn't.

Of course it turns out it was.

By the way—you know who did not have trouble getting information out of the IRS? ProPublica, which was pushing an ideological agenda friendly to the administration. When they asked the IRS for information, they got it—in 12 days. Some of it was not even supposed to be released.

When I asked the IRS for information, when did I get it? Only when it was coming out anyway in an IG report.

So there are a lot—a lot—of unanswered questions that remain.

Which officials knew about this scandal?

When did they know about it?

What did they do about it when they found out?

Did they deliberately mislead Congress and the American people?

The number of officials involved continues to grow. And now, with this rev-

elation from ProPublica, it appears that the campaign against conservative groups was of a broader scope than originally admitted. So it is no surprise that the American people are demanding more than just some half-hearted apology made under duress. As an activist from one of the targeted groups in Kentucky said yesterday, "Apology not accepted."

"There are many questions that still need to be asked," he said. "There are many that remain unanswered."

My constituent was absolutely right.

I ask unanimous consent the letter signed by my colleagues be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 14, 2013.

HON. BARACK OBAMA,

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our grave concerns and deep disappointment about the revelations in a report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had specifically targeted certain organizations for extra scrutiny as part of their approval review of applications for tax-exempt 501(c)(4) status. This appears to be a wholly inappropriate action that threatens to silence political dissent and brings partisan politics into what used to be a nonpartisan, unbiased and fact-based review process. The public's confidence in the IRS relies on fair and apolitical application of the law. Actions such as these undermine taxpayers' ability to trust its government to fairly implement the law.

According to information given to Congress in a timeline provided by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), in early 2010 "specialists had been asked to be on the lookout for Tea Party applications, and the IRS Determinations Unit had begun searching its database for applications with 'Tea Party,' 'Patriots,' or '9/12' in the organization's name." The report goes on to state that "By June 2011, some IRS specialists were probing applications using the following criteria to identify tea-party cases, according to the Treasury inspector general findings: "'Tea Party,' 'Patriots' or '9/12 Project' is referenced in the case file; issues include government spending, government debt or taxes; education of the public by advocacy/lobbying to 'make America a better place to live'; statements in the case file criticize how the country is being run."

We are deeply disturbed that agents of the government were directed to give greater scrutiny to groups engaged in conduct questioning the actions of their government. This type of purely political scrutiny being conducted by an Executive Branch Agency is yet another completely inexcusable attempt to chill the speech of political opponents and those who would question their government, consistent with a broader pattern of intimidation by arms of your administration to silence political dissent.

These disclosures are even more unsettling as they contradict prior statements made by representatives of the Administration on this matter. In response to questions raised in 2012 on this issue by Republican Senators, Steven T. Miller, the Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement at the IRS, specifically (and falsely) stated that there was an unbiased, technical screening process used to determine which applications for

501(c)(4) organizations merited further review. In two separate letters to Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin Hatch, Mr. Miller failed to note that explicitly political screens were used in reviewing applications, despite the fact the practice was apparently well known within the IRS as early as 2010.

Given these strong and clear statements by the Administration in 2012 that no such targeted review or specified politically motivated criteria existed, these revelations raise serious questions about the entire application review process, and the controls in place at the IRS to stop this sort of political interference once and for all. According to TIGTA these actions took place more than two years ago, yet without this information becoming public, there is no evidence that your administration would have done anything to make sure these abuses were brought to light and dealt with in a transparent way.

The American people deserve to know what actions will be taken to ensure those who made these policy decisions at the IRS are being held fully accountable and more importantly what is being done to ensure that this kind of raw partisanship is fully eliminated from these critically important nonpartisan government functions. As such, we demand that your Administration comply with all requests related to Congressional inquiries without any delay, including making available all IRS employees involved in designing and implementing these prohibited political screenings, so that the public has a full accounting of these actions. It is imperative that the Administration be fully forthcoming to ensure that we begin to restore the confidence of our fellow citizens after this blatant violation of their trust. We look forward to working on this critical issue with the Administration's full cooperation.

Sincerely,

Orrin Hatch, John Barrasso, Pat Toomey, Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Bob Corker, David Vitter, Marco Rubio, Mark Kirk, John Thune, John Hoeven, James Inhofe, Deb Fischer, James Risch, Mike Johanns, Johnny Isakson, Richard Shelby, Tom Coburn, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, Rand Paul, Mike Crapo, Dan Coats, Kelly Ayotte, John McCain, Ted Cruz, Dean Heller, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Roger Wicker, Thad Cochran, Ron Johnson, Rob Portman, Michael B. Enzi, Jeff Flake, Susan Collins, Saxby Chambliss, Roy Blunt, Jeff Sessions, Lamar Alexander, Jerry Moran, Mike Lee, Lindsey Graham, Tim Scott, Lisa Murkowski.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2013

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we mark National Police Week 2013 as a time to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the many men and women in Federal, State, and local law enforcement across America. It is an appropriate time for those of us who benefit from their efforts—and that is all of us—to express our gratitude.

The Nation's Capital welcomes thousands of police officers who are gathering to celebrate National Police Week. They will honor their fallen fellow officers and rededicate themselves to their duties of defending the property, dignity, and lives of those who would fall prey to criminals outside the law.

I want to especially recognize the many men and women who work to enforce the law in my home State of Kentucky. Many of them have traveled to Washington this week, and today I will have the pleasure of meeting with some of Kentucky's finest. I want to personally thank them for bravely risking their lives in service of people across the Commonwealth.

Earlier this month in Richmond, Kentucky, a solemn ceremony was held at the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. This memorial lists the names of every known fallen peace officer in Kentucky history. Along the bottom of it are the words, "Blessed Be the Peacekeepers."

The ceremony was held to add the names of two law-enforcement officers from Kentucky who were killed in the line of duty in 2012. Hodgenville Police Officer Mark A. Taulbee was killed in a vehicle pursuit on September 16. Marion County Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Rakes was shot during a traffic stop on November 14.

I extend my sympathies to the families of Officer Taulbee and Deputy Rakes for their tragic loss.

Their names will be added, along with 6 other Kentucky peace officers whose names had not previously been on the memorial. There will be a total of 509 brave Kentuckians on that wall.

I know my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in holding the deepest admiration and respect for the many brave law-enforcement officers across Kentucky and the Nation. Theirs is both an honorable profession, and a dangerous one. It is also a necessary one, as the maintenance of peace and order in a civil society that we take for granted could not exist without them.

Kentucky is grateful to our law-enforcement officers and their families. And we are grateful for the sacrifice of Officer Mark A. Taulbee and Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Rakes to preserve the rule of law.

I ask unanimous consent that the names of the Commonwealth of Kentucky law-enforcement officers added to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial this year be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mark A. Taulbee; Hodgenville Police Department; End of Watch: September 16, 2012.

Anthony Rakes; Marion County Sheriff's Office; End of Watch: November 14, 2012.

Releigh Killion; U.S. Marshal; End of Watch: May 24, 1884.

Thomas D. Martin; Stanford Police Department; End of Watch: May 16, 1931.

Theo Madden; Knott County Sheriff's Office; End of Watch: March 10, 1933.

Vernon C. Snellen; Kentucky State Police; End of Watch: February 20, 1937.

Bill Baker; Perry County Sheriff's Office; End of Watch: March 11, 1950.

George Puckett; Perry County Sheriff's Office; End of Watch: April 26, 1950.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The Republican whip.

OBAMA SCANDALS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, like millions of Americans, the events of the last few days and the last few months have caused me to reflect on the nature of our Federal Government and our special system of federalism which delegates to the Federal Government certain powers but reserves to the States and the people those remaining powers. That is roughly what the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says.

I have also reflected a little bit on what some wise people have said over our history, and even before America was founded, about the nature of power, government power: Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Our Founders pointed out in the Federalist Papers and elsewhere that the concentration of power in the hands of the few is the very definition of tyranny. We have learned from hard experience over the course of our Nation's history that when government thinks it knows best, particularly here in Washington, in a country as big and diverse as ours, the natural tendency then in Washington is to try to suppress the voices of those who see things differently, those who want to exercise their constitutional rights, particularly to free speech, freedom of association, and, yes, even freedom of the press.

It is not true to say we have not been warned about the dangers of concentration of power in the Federal Government, and big government, and the human frailties that follow. We have been warned time and time and time again. Now we have been reminded once again of the wisdom of our Founders and the wisdom of the structure of the U.S. Constitution.

Over the last week a series of events has highlighted the administration's massive credibility gap. First, we learned more details about the coordinated attempt to misrepresent the September 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. You may recall immediately after that attack the President was at a press conference, and he said later: Well, I said it was a terrorist attack then. That was reviewed by the

Fact Checker in the Washington Post—hardly an unsympathetic newspaper editorially to the administration's point of view—and the Fact Checker gave the President of the United States four Pinocchios. Some ask why four Pinocchios? I think the true answer is because they never give five Pinocchios—maybe they do—but you get the point.

Of course we cannot escape the fact and we should not ignore the fact that this attack took four American lives.

Then we learned this last week that a senior IRS official had acknowledged that her agency deliberately targeted certain political speech and activity for harassment, using the instruments of power given to the Internal Revenue Service. Perhaps the most awesome, pervasive, and potentially intrusive power the Federal Government has is in the hands of that agency. Interestingly, the White House counsel said she learned about it in April. The President said he did not learn about it until later. An investigation needs to be undertaken, and I am happy Senator MAX BAUCUS, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Senator ORRIN HATCH, the ranking member of the Finance Committee, have committed themselves to doing an investigation of the IRS and how this could possibly happen.

On top of all that, the top administrator of Health and Human Services, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, has been soliciting funds from the very industries she regulates to help implement ObamaCare. It does not take a rocket scientist to imagine the potential for coercion by the government of these private sector industries because of their fear of retribution if they do not contribute to this effort—a huge conflict of interest, and perhaps illegal. We need to get to the bottom of that as well.

So whether the issue is terrorist attacks in Libya, political and partisan abuses by the IRS, or efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to shake down the health insurance industry they regulate, it appears the birds the Founders warned us about have come home to roost.

The concentration of government power invariably leads to abuse of that power, and it is the same old story of human frailties over and over. It is no respecter of political parties; it has happened to both political parties. We should have been more careful, and we should have listened. We should not have persistently engaged in this power grab in Washington, DC, at the expense of individual liberty on the part of the American people.

What is the price to be paid by these scandals? The first price is a lack of credibility and public confidence in the most basic institutions that make up this government. The other damage is to the credibility of folks at the highest level of the administration. After all, if the administration is willing to prevaricate, mislead, and dissemble