



Over 200 Reps Defy Obama and GOP Leadership, Vote to Stop NSA Dagnet Surveillance

July 25th, 2013 • 10:42 AM

In the face of an all-out counteroffensive by the White House, the House Republican leadership, and the NSA itself, 205 House members — Democrats and Republicans alike — voted to end the NSA's dragnet collection of records on every American being conducted under Section 215 of the Patriot Act. The amendment, offered by Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich), was only narrowly defeated in a 205-217 vote in the House on Wednesday evening — marking a major step forward in the fight against Obama Administration's police-state practices.

Opening the 15-minute debate on his amendment, Amash declared that the purpose of it was to protect the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and to protect the privacy of each and every American. He also warned that his opponents would resort to fear, and would claim that we must violate the rights of Americans in order to protect ourselves.

His opponents then proceeded to prove Amash's point. House Intelligence Committee chairman Mike Rogers invoked the horror of the 9/11 attacks, and he falsely claimed that when a terrorist called someone in the U.S., we didn't catch it because we didn't have this capability, i.e., the dragnet surveillance. (In fact, it was because of softness toward the Saudis, and bureaucratic turf battles, that the calls from Yemen to the Saudi terrorists living in San Diego before the 9/11 attacks were not detected.) Michelle Bachman (R-Minn) asserted that the only people who benefit from Edward Snowden's revelations are the Islamic jihadists who want to kill us. "We're at war," ranted another opponent, Tom Cotton (R-Ark).

Among the dozen or so members speaking in favor of the Amash amendment, were:

- * Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich), who said it would curtail the dragnet collection and storage of the personal records of innocent Americans;
- * Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc), who said that as the principal author of the Patriot Act, he strongly supports this amendment; it prevents the collection of data for persons not subject to an investigation;
- * Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif), who noted that proponents of the spying program claim there is oversight of Sec. 215 of the Patriot Act, but in fact the annual report on Sec. 215 was only eight lines long;

- * Joe Barton (R-Tex), who asked: do they have the right to collect data on all Americans, all the time?;
- * Jeff Duncan (R-SC), who read the Fourth Amendment; and
- * Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas), who compared the NSA program to the general warrants used by King George III, and who demanded: "Get a specific warrant based on probable cause, or get out of our lives!"

The final tally showed 111 Democrats and 94 Republicans voting for the Amash amendment, and 83 Democrats and 134 Republicans voting against.

W W W . L A R O U C H E P A C . C O M

Paid for by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee
P.O. Box 6157, Leesburg, VA 20178, www.larouchepac.com
and Not Authorized by Any Candidate or Candidate's Committee