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## White House Denies that Clapper Is Overseeing NSA Review; He's Just in Charge of It

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Obama and the White House just can't help themselves. On Tuesday, according to *The Hill*, they denied media accounts that Director of National Intelligence James Clapper will oversee the government's review of its surveillance programs, which Obama announced on Aug. 9 with much fanfare. "Director Clapper will not be a part of the group, and is not leading or directing the group's efforts," said Caitlin Hayden, a White House spokeswoman, who added that the White House will select members of the group.

However, despite these denials, the fact remains that Obama sent a memo to Clapper on Monday, which directed him to "establish" the review group, and states that the group will brief Obama on its interim findings "through" the DNI, and will "provide a final report and recommendations through the DNI."



The least untruthful truth: 'Director Clapper is not directing the group's efforts.'

"If this was about 'restoring the trust' of the American people that the government isn't pulling a fast one over on them, President Obama sure has a funny way of trying to rebuild that trust," Mike Masnick wrote on his blog TechDirt. "This seems a lot more like giving the concerns of the American public a giant middle finger."

Meanwhile, another one of Obama's latest lame-duck "snit fits" is over the fact that Senate Democrats dared to express their support for Janet Yellen to

become Fed chairman, and that many have spoken out on their strong opposition to Larry Summers. The Wall Street Journal reports that White House officials are "surprised and irritated" at Senate Democrats over the issue, and they are moving "behind the scenes to quash the campaign and are insisting President Barack Obama not be pressured as he mulls whom to nominate."

"The president has chafed at the prospect of being boxed in on what he views as clear presidential authority, but some lawmakers argue they have a constitutional duty both to confirm the Fed nominee and make known their preferences." Women's groups are also ticked at Obama, says the *Journal*, which quotes Terry O'Neill, president of the National Organization for Women, as saying, "The White House telling these people to sit down and shut up is deeply regrettable."

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