

Joining terrorists for a tea party

Michael Costello

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I hadn't planned to attend the local "tea party" protests. These days, both Democrats and Republicans go stone deaf when confronted with demands of fiscal responsibility. But after I learned from the Department of Homeland Security that there was a chance that I could meet some honest-to-goodness terrorists there, I had to go.

In a report released early this week, DHS warned law enforcement to beware of tax protesters, proliferators and returning military veterans. How could I resist? After trying so hard to abolish such terms as "war on terror" and "terrorism" from the lexicon, our brand-new, post-partisan, unification federal government has discovered that indeed there is such a thing as terrorism threatening America after all.

And the danger is from conservatives, such as those who attend tea parties. Ideologues who believe in limited government, as outlined in the Constitution, and fiscal responsibility are to be feared and loathed. And this new class of terrorists, said the report, is fortified by returning war veterans, killing machines vulnerable to right-wing rhetoric.

Recently the state of Missouri issued a bulletin to its state police warning that occupants of cars with Ron Paul for president, NRA or "Don't Tread On Me" bumper stickers should be considered dangerous. This is the same state where Democratic district attorneys threatened to prosecute people who criticized Barack Obama before the election.

During an interview with CNN's Wolff Blitzer, our secretary of homeland security, Janet Napolitano, implied that these conservative terrorists are every bit as much a threat as al-Qaida.

Blitzer: "Is it a bigger threat from your perspective and other al-Qaida and foreign related terror attack against the United States or domestic terrorism along the lines of an Oklahoma City bombing?"

Napolitano: "That's difficult to say."

Well, Pullman's tea party deployed weapons of mass politeness. The signs were civil. Voices were temperate, except for one fellow who shouted, "Throw the bums out." But I'm pretty sure he was talking about the ballot box.

At the end of the rally, the organizer really brought out the assault weapons - copies of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, so that those who did not already know could learn how just far this country has strayed from its founding principles.

There seems to be a concerted effort to mischaracterize the tea parties as strictly anti-tax. The truth is that they are pro-liberty, pro-free markets and opposed to runaway government spending and runaway government intervention in every aspect of our lives. The people I talked to were very uncomfortable with the level of control that the Obama administration is exerting over the private economy.

But mostly, the tea parties are about fiscal responsibility. After advocating fiscal responsibility throughout the campaign, Barack Obama pushed through \$787 billion in pork-barrel spending, and then followed that up with a budget that includes \$2 trillion in deficit spending.

To cover Obama's profligacy, the Federal Reserve had to inflate the money supply by \$1.3 trillion last month. If printing money were the path to prosperity, then Zimbabwe would be the world's richest nation.

Tea partiers also worry about their country's future because they understand that centrally planned economies have always failed. And the reason that they have failed in the past is not just because previous central planners weren't as smart as Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi. Tea partiers shudder when they see Democrats trying to dictate salary scales and order the hiring and firing of corporate executives, or telling car companies what kind of cars to build or whom they are required to merge with. When the communist Chinese start lecturing the U.S. on the perils of socialism ...

In truth, it's quite obvious that the Obama administration doesn't really fear right-wing terrorism. If these right-wingers were a real threat, then the administration would not have had the courage to identify it. This administration won't even put the words "Islamic" and "terrorism" together for fear of whom it might offend. If you really scare people, you can frighten them into not even mentioning your name.

Islamic terrorism has become the threat that must not be named. Of course, if Janet Napolitano really wants to find real domestic terrorists, she should ignore bumper stickers and peruse the guest lists for social functions that her boss has attended for the last 10 years or so.

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Costello is a research technician at Washington State University.  
His e-mail address is  
[kozmozcostello@hotmail.com](mailto:kozmozcostello@hotmail.com).