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## Go Ahead, Take My Freedom - I'm not a Terrorist

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# Go Ahead, Take My Freedom – I’m not a Terrorist

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*Luke DeKoster*

*This election season’s latest tempest in a teapot regards the passports of the three remaining candidates, their passport files, that is, examined by federal employees who lacked the authorization to do so.*

A great hue and cry arose, with the usual whining about mushy notions such as privacy and civil liberties – but I, for one, applaud the effort. After all, what is government for if not catching bad guys? If we had more true patriots who looked through people’s files, the 9/11 hijackers could have been caught in time. At first, I didn’t understand the thought process. Sure, you’ve got to monitor Barack Obama (fishy name, looks like a terrorist, goes to the wrong church) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (feminist, activist in years past, has a disturbing laugh). I mean, they’re Democrats.

But John McCain? He’s a former POW, for goodness sakes, his dad’s an admiral and he’s willing to stay in Iraq for as long as it takes. Then, I figured it out. McCain must be a closet Muslim – he doesn’t talk enough about Jesus, he consorts with liberals like Russ Feingold, and he once said the Rev. Jerry Falwell (God rest his soul) was an “agent of intolerance.” A McCain win would surely send al-Qaeda dancing into the streets. So I’m all for it. But unbelievably, our sharp-nosed detectives got fired, and just when they were onto something!

I’ve got a few suggestions. Reinstate those guys, and put them in charge of a new program – Securing the Homeland. Hire a few thousand loyal citizens in each state, and start going through the files. You can start with mine. I’ve got nothing to hide. But that lady a couple of blocks over, you better check up on her. She didn’t put her hand on her heart for the Star-Spangled Banner at the last basketball game. The guy who lives on the edge of town – he doesn’t have a “Support our Troops” sticker on his pickup. And one of our elders actually prayed for Osama bin Laden last Sunday. High treason, I say. What we’re hoping for, really, is that people will object to having their files examined—that’s proof right there. Fourth Amendment, my foot. Nothing to fear if you’re not a terrorist.

*“Much of the obscurity of our effort so far against terrorism originates in the now official idea that the enemy is evil and that we are (therefore) good, which is the precise mirror image of the official idea of the terrorists...But the proposition that anything so multiple and large as a nation can be good is an insult to common sense. It is also dangerous, because it precludes any attempt at self-criticism or self-correction; it precludes public dialogue...An inescapable requirement of true patriotism, love for one’s land, is a vigilant distrust of any determinative power, elected or unelected, that may preside over it.” (Wendell Berry, *A Citizen’s Response*)*

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**Editor’s Note:** This article was published in the *Sioux County Index-Reporter*, April 9, 2008, in Luke DeKoster’s series “Not Yet Home.”