

could have been mobilized upon request from Washington?

5. And speaking of force posture, what have we done to ensure that if another incident were to happen this September 11 that we're prepared to respond?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #8 (SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD JULY 25, 2013)

1. A U.S. consulate is under attack. A U.S. Ambassador is missing. A State Department Diplomatic Security Agent is dead. Are the American people to believe the president is briefed only once that entire night, at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time?

2. Where was the president the rest of the night?

3. Did his national security team, including John Brennan, Sec. Panetta and Gen. Dempsey, ever go back and brief the president when the annex came under attack? If so, what steps did he direct at that time?

4. Did the president ever step foot in the White House Situation Room that night?

5. Did he ever see the footage from the unarmed drone stationed over Benghazi monitoring the attacks?

6. Last evening, Fox News' Catherine Herridge reported how Diplomatic Security Agent David Ubben is still recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center—more than 10 months after the attack—for injuries he sustained while repeatedly risking his life to save others that night. Has the president ever called or met with David Ubben to thank him for his sacrifice? Has he ever called the others who were seriously wounded that night, including the former Navy SEAL on the security team who sustained significant injuries?

7. To Secretary of State John Kerry's credit, I know that he has visited with Ubben at Walter Reed. But did former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ever meet with him during the six months she was still in office after the attack?

8. Did the president and his team ever even consider cancelling his political fundraiser in Las Vegas the day after the attack to monitor the situation in Benghazi?

9. That night, when the ambassador was considered a potential hostage and nearly 30 Americans were under sustained attacks at the CIA annex, did the president's staff ever notify the campaign that he might not be leaving the White House the next day?

10. When he boarded Air Force One for Las Vegas, did the president know about the serious injuries that some of the survivors had sustained? Did he know what hospitals they were being taken to?

11. Is there a parallel in American history when the U.S. was under attack, Americans were killed and a sitting U.S. ambassador was considered a potential terrorist hostage, but the president was not engaged with his national security team?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #9 (DELIVERED ON JULY 30, 2013)

1. Who are the anonymous senior administration officials who admitted "mistakes" in their handling of the attack to CBS?

2. Why haven't they testified to Congress about these mistakes?

3. Why wasn't the Foreign Emergency Support Team (FEST) deployed immediately?

4. Last week, Gen. Ham admitted that he believed Ambassador Stevens may have been taken hostage by terrorists. Given the FEST team's terrorism and hostage negotiation expertise, who made the decision not to deploy them?

5. Why didn't the White House convene the Counterterrorism Security Group (CSG) that night to coordinate the interagency response to the attack? If that group wasn't responsible for coordination, who was?

6. Which agency was leading the response that night?

7. Was the State Department directing the Pentagon not to deploy its planes or response teams while also not sending the FEST team?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #10 (DELIVERED ON JULY 31, 2013)

1. When was the CIA annex in Benghazi established?

2. How many people worked at the annex—of these, how many were direct agency employees and how many were contractors?

3. What was the ratio of CIA staff to security contractors?

4. Above all, why was there a facility operated by the CIA in Benghazi?

5. If indeed the CIA facility in Benghazi involved in the collection of \$40 million in weapons from the U.S., as first reported by National Journal in 2011, where are they?

6. The \$40 million promised by Secretary Clinton would buy a very large quantity of weapons. Were they shipped out of Benghazi? Are they in warehouses on U.S. soil? Are they in other allied countries? Or did they end up elsewhere?

7. Is it possible that the president's intelligence finding included an authorization for the weapons collected in Libya to be transferred to Syrian rebels? Was the CIA annex being used to facilitate these transfers? If so, how did the weapons physically move from Libya to Syria? By plane? By ship?

8. And, again, I ask, if these weapons were not being transferred to other countries like Syria, where exactly did they end up?

9. Was the CIA annex being used as a logistics center to track and transfer these weapons?

10. Was Ambassador Stevens' visit to the CIA annex on September 10 associated with these operations?

11. And if these activities were taking place, was this consistent with the president's intelligence finding? Was the Congress notified?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #11 (DELIVERED ON AUGUST 1, 2013)

1. Who in the White House knew what was going on in the [CIA] annex [in Benghazi]? The president? The chief of staff? Then-deputy national security advisor and current CIA director John Brennan?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #12 (DELIVERED ON AUGUST 2, 2013)

1. Why are these heroes being told not talk? What is the administration afraid of? What is it protecting?

2. How can the Congress know the survivors don't want to speak with Congress if they can't learn who they are and ask them?

3. Are we really to take the administration's word [that they aren't being silenced]?

4. With such a broad range of support [for a Benghazi Select Committee], it begs the question: why not? What are we afraid of from a full investigation and public hearings?

5. The House "interim progress report" on Benghazi was released on April 23. When will the final report be released?

6. Can any member here confidently say that they know what happened that night?

7. Can any member honestly say—with reports like the one CNN did yesterday—that this Congress has done everything it can to allow the survivors to come forward and tell their story?

8. September 11 is fast approaching. Will we continue on our current path and learn from forthcoming books written by the survivors and sanitized by the CIA, or will we create a Select Committee to subpoena witnesses to testify under oath at public hearings?

9. With news reports this morning that the U.S. will be closing all embassies in the Mid-

dle East this weekend due to a suspected terrorist threat, are we better prepared now to respond to an attack? We still don't know.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 434, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting off the hill at the White House with the President.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

A TRIBUTE TO PATTY COWNIE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Patty Cownie for being named a 2013 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Each year, Business Record undertakes an exhaustive review to identify a standout group of women in the Greater Des Moines area who, as the publication notes, "have made a difference." An impressive group of inspiring female leaders are selected annually for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement, career success, and being a role model for other women to emulate. The 2013 Women of Influence honorees join an impressive roster of more than 130 women who have changed and are continuing to change our communities for the better.

As a leading community volunteer, Patty Cownie has come to personify the idea of "giving back" and working to help Des Moines provide quality educational experiences for children and young adults. After college, Mrs. Cownie worked for two years as a social worker, before parenting nine children became a full-time job. But she always has remained highly active in the community, spending 10 years on the Drake University board of trustees and being involved at Dowling Catholic High School, which her children attended, as well as St. Augustin School, where she was the foundation board chair. She also has been president of the Des Moines Metro Opera board, and she has served on the Des Moines Arts Festival committee, Civic Music Association board and Des Moines Performing Arts board.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Patty Cownie in the United States Congress, and I am pleased to recognize her for working to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Women of Influence class continued success.