

A couple of months later, he said: Actually, most of Lois Lerner's emails were destroyed because, you see, they are held on these backup tapes, and we recycle the backup tapes. We destroy the tapes, so there is just nothing we can do here. We are just going to move along, and we are not going to participate in any meaningful way with your investigation.

Most Americans didn't accept that, and it really was not worth the paper it was printed on in terms of an excuse. It was, obviously, much different than what the IRS would impose on a taxpayer, but it was even more than that. It was more than just a weak excuse; it was false.

Once Koskinen said that the emails were destroyed—guess what?—the Inspector General for Tax Administration in the Treasury Department did basic due diligence and said: Do you know what? I am going to check to see whether Koskinen is telling the truth.

What did the IG do? He drove out to West Virginia where they have the warehouse of all of the backup tapes. What did they find? The Lois Lerner emails on the backup tapes. They were there the whole time. Now, they have pulled thousands and thousands of Lois Lerner emails.

These are emails that are, in many cases, different than the emails that the IRS begrudgingly produced to Congress and to the American people. This is a major, major issue. Of course, there is the targeting, but then there are the lengths that the IRS has gone to stymie Congress' investigation.

Just this week in Federal court, they are fighting Judicial Watch. They don't want to turn over even these new emails that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration provided to the IRS.

They are saying: We can't turn them over to you now in the course of the litigation. We are not going to turn them over to Congress because we need to check to see whether there are any duplicates from the emails that we have already turned over.

Really? Who cares? Give us the emails. Give the American people the truth. What they are trying to do is to stonewall and drag this out as long as they can, hoping that the American people will forget about it. Then, basically, they get away scot-free, with nobody in their organization being held accountable.

I think it is a test of this institution here in the Congress about whether somebody like Commissioner Koskinen is going to be held to account for misleading Congress, for providing false information to Congress.

The fact of the matter is, if an American taxpayer were hauled in front of a Federal grand jury or a Federal court and if he gave testimony like that, that was not true, he would face consequences. You can bet your bottom dollar.

I think the IRS is kind of the grossest example that we have in Wash-

ington of really a fundamental problem with how our government operates, which is that the people who work and operate in and around Washington, D.C.—6 of the 10 wealthiest counties in our country are now suburbs of Washington, D.C. We are not producing shale here. We don't have technology—nothing—in Washington.

It is all because of the power and growth of government, so people inside the beltway are not held accountable. You have people at the IRS, and you have people at the EPA, and you have people in all of these different agencies. Essentially, they are allowed to operate under a lower standard of conduct than what an American taxpayer or a citizen would be allowed or permitted to do by the government. That is unacceptable.

I think that this IRS issue is as important a government accountability issue as we are facing in this Congress. I think it is a test for the House as to whether we are going to be serious about this and hold these IRS officials accountable.

I am glad my friend from North Carolina had the time here today. I think it was very productive to listen to some of the other Members. I just want the American people to know that I am committed to getting to the bottom of this and to holding these people accountable not only for the targeting, but for obstructing the investigation when it has been obstructed over and over again.

Mr. WALKER. I thank Congressman DESANTIS.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, in closing, we have had an evening which we have called and labeled "the People's Night," one of many that we plan on holding. I thank the dozen or so colleagues who have shown their concern.

We talk much about awareness these days, but few times do we get to the accountable and to the action step process. Government has run amuck. That is why many of us ran to begin with.

I sent out an email this afternoon, asking a few of the constituents back home what some of the things are they are concerned about. The president of our local women's Republican club sent back two paragraphs and listed about 12 or 13 things. Those are the kinds of things we need to be calling out.

It has been a privilege to be with my colleagues this evening. I appreciate their time as they continue to show strong support for these wonderful men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2596, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-155) on the resolution (H. Res. 315) providing for

consideration of the bill (H.R. 2596) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

IRAN'S HISTORY OF TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I would like to take some time to remind the American people of the nature of a sworn enemy of the United States, whose leaders to this day, as they have for the past 36 years, continue to chant, "Death to America."

That enemy, Mr. Speaker, is Iran. Mr. Speaker, the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China, plus Germany, this group known as the P5+1—have engaged in negotiations with Iran in an attempt to halt Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

Of significant note, unlike the negotiations that we had with North Korea years ago regarding its pursuit of nuclear weapons, those negotiations included the United States and North Korea's neighbors—China, Russia, South Korea, and Japan. Iran's regional neighbors and closest targets, however—Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel—were not invited to participate in these talks.

A framework for an agreement with the P5+1 and Iran was reached in April, but that framework is simply inadequate to halt the regime's march to a nuclear weapon.

Iran cannot be allowed to get a nuclear weapon. Such an event would set off a destabilizing arms race in a region of the world that is already afire with sectarian hatred. It is a real threat that Iran would use such a weapon against Israel, Europe, or with its continued development of long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles against the United States.

Iran's surface-to-surface missile expansion is a threat typically left out of discussions over its nuclear program, but we cannot ignore that Iran has now built itself the largest and most sophisticated long-range missile arsenal in the Middle East.

The current nuclear framework agreed to in April represents a significant shift in U.S. policy regarding Iran's nuclear program. Under the agreed upon framework, Iran's nuclear centrifuges will be allowed to keep spinning for the next decade. This is the first Presidential administration to