

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Technology And Terrorism

LOS ANGELES TIMES (Nov. 18): In the aftermath of the bloody terrorist attacks in Paris, top national security officials and their allies in Congress called again for technology companies to ensure that the government can unscramble what their users have encrypted. For example, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, told Politico: "Technology exists today that allows terrorists and criminals to communicate in the shadows, using encryption that makes it impossible for law enforcement or national security authorities to do everything they can to protect Americans."

Added Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., on MSNBC: "Silicon Valley has to take a look at their products, because if you create a product that allows evil monsters to communicate in this way — to behead children, to strike innocents, whether it's at a game in a stadium, in a small restaurant in Paris, take down an airliner — that's a big problem."

The targets of the senators' ire are companies such as Apple and Google, whose devices can encrypt users' data in ways that even the companies cannot unscramble. That's a relatively recent shift; the companies previously could unlock users' messages or files in response to a court order. But after the leaks by Edward Snowden, a number of tech companies gave up that ability to mollify consumers concerned about widespread government surveillance. Now, the only way to decrypt such a file may be to gain access to the suspect's device and, in some cases, persuade the suspect to help.

It's not surprising to hear politicians argue for more surveillance powers after a terrorist attack. Yet before we try to strike a new balance between the competing interests of public safety and personal privacy (or individual liberty, for that matter), it's important to know just what the threat is and how best to respond to it.

While it's clear that some terrorists are using encryption, investigators haven't shown that the plotters behind the Paris attacks or other recent Islamic State atrocities hid behind an impenetrable curtain of digital noise. So Grassley and Feinstein may be deriving the wrong lesson from the carnage. Instead of worrying about intercepted data being indecipherable, they should be worrying whether we're simply not gathering enough data about Islamic State and its tentacles across Europe, Africa and South Asia, and if so, how to fix that problem.

Beyond that, the terrorists have made no secret of the fact that they're developing and deploying their own encryption programs. Requiring Apple, Google and other mainstream tech companies to offer only breakable encryption may not affect Islamic State, but it will certainly leave millions of everyday consumers more vulnerable to much more common threats than terrorists: hackers and identity thieves. As Apple CEO Tim Cook recently noted, it's impossible to weaken encryption for the good guys' sake without doing the same for the bad guys.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that a few simple guidelines be followed:

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.
- In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.
- Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.
- Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2015. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 23, 1765, Frederick County, Maryland, became the first colonial American entity to repudiate the British Stamp Act.

On this date: In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce, was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. (The coin-operated device consisted of four listening tubes attached to an Edison phonograph.)

In 1890, William III, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg, died, ending 75 years of Dutch rule over Luxembourg.

In 1903, Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1914, the seven-month U.S. military occupation of Veracruz, Mexico, ended.

In 1936, Life, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce (loos), was first published.

In 1945, most U.S. wartime rationing of foods, including meat and butter, was set to expire by day's end.

In 1959, the musical "Fiorello!" starring Tom Bosley as legendary New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, opened on Broadway.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1995, movie director Louis Malle ("Pretty Baby"; "Atlantic City"; "My Dinner with Andre") died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 63.

Ten years ago: In Iraq, gunmen broke into the home of a senior Sunni Arab leader and killed him, three of his sons and a son-in-law. A commuter train slammed into several vehicles caught in a traffic jam on a busy road in Elmhurst Park, Illinois, starting a chain reaction that

injured at least 10 people. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was confirmed as the winner of Liberia's presidential election. American-born actress Constance Cummings died in Oxfordshire, England, at age 95.

Five years ago: North Korea bombarded South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island with artillery fire, killing four people and raising tensions between the two countries. Texas outfielder Josh Hamilton was a runaway winner of the American League's Most Valuable Player award. Actress Ingrid Pitt, who'd survived a Nazi concentration camp and dodged Communist police to become one of Britain's best known horror stars, died in London at 73.

One year ago: Israel's Cabinet approved a bill to legally define the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Former Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry died at age 78. Roger Federer defeated Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the first reverse singles match as Switzerland won the Davis Cup final against France by taking an unassailable 3-1 lead. One Direction won three honors at the American Music Awards, including artist of the year; Katy Perry, absent because of her world tour, also won three awards.

Today's Birthdays: Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 85. Actress Elmarie Wendel is 87. Actor Franco Nero is 74. Actress Susan Anspach is 73. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 71. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 68. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is 65. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 61. Former Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is 60. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 56. Actor John Henton is 55. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 55. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 49. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 49. Actress Sally Richardson-Whitfield is 48. Actor Oded Fehr is 45. Rapper-actor Krupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 43. Actor Page Kennedy is 39. Actress Kelly Brook is 36. Actor Lucas Grabeel is 31. TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is 28. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus is 23. Actor Austin Majors is 20.

Thought for Today: "It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it." — Author unknown.

FROM THE BIBLE

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." Genesis 12:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dotting The 'i'

Fernande Colette Bitsos, Yankton

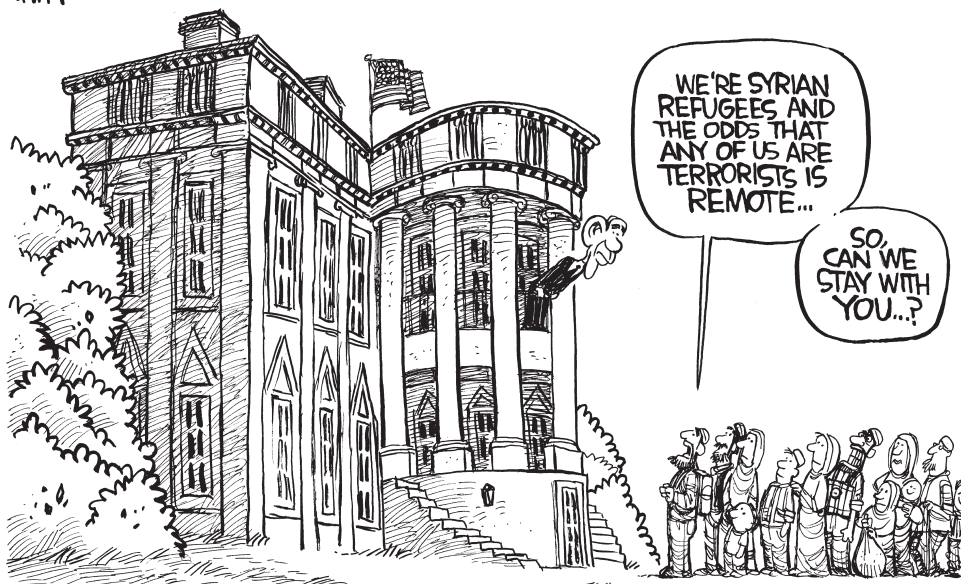
Thank you Ms. Vanessa Carlson, your letter to the editor (*Press & Dakotan*, Nov. 5) did put the "dot" on the "i."

Lowering the cost of fuel, as previously mentioned by the media to cancel COLA next January, will benefit the

younger working generation,, high school and college students, while advanced Seniors will not feed on fuel for medical prescriptions, walkers, clinic appointments, hospital stays, etc.

Let Congress pay back the borrowing from Social Security Funds, Too late, Congress just blew \$4.5 millions from the taxpayers on the Benghazi saga.

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Winners, Losers and Leaders

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

President Obama's reaction to the horrible terrorist attacks in Paris has been strange — and disturbing.

Instead of rallying the country and calling for the United States to lead the fight to wipe out the Islamic State, what did he do first?

He took pot shots at Republicans for their reluctance to open our borders to thousands of Syrian refugees.

He even said some Republicans were helping ISIS recruit new fighters by suggesting that the United States should give preference to Christian refugees over Muslims.

We're stuck with Obama and his failed leadership for another 13 months.

Meanwhile, we'll have to hope that Francois Hollande of France and Vladimir Putin of Russia can lead a coalition to victory over the Islamist extremists.

Unlike Obama, President Hollande reacted to the Paris attack like a real leader.

He immediately called it what it was — an act of war perpetrated by terrorists — and he promised the whole world that his government would not let ISIS get away with it.

"I want to say we are going to lead a war which will be pitiless," Hollande said as he toured the music hall where more than 100 of his countrymen and women were slaughtered.

"Because when terrorists are capable of committing such atrocities they must be certain that they are facing a determined France, a united France, a France that is together and does not let itself be moved, even if today we express infinite sorrow."

Obama did not seek to unite America after Paris. He sought to divide it.

He didn't promise to make the Islamic State pay for Paris or any of its earlier atrocities and war crimes.

The mass murders in Paris and the blowing up of a Russian airliner finally woke up Hollande and Putin to the threat posed by ISIS.

What will it take to wake up Obama?

His policy towards ISIS reminds me of détente, the foreign policy practiced by Republicans and Democrats alike during the Cold War.

Détente is the French word to describe the easing of tensions and hostilities between the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union.



Michael REAGAN

What the policy of détente meant in practice, however, was not exactly something to be proud of if you were a freedom-loving American.

It basically said to the Soviets — and other totalitarian countries — that we don't care if you torture or imprison or mistreat your own people as long as you don't do anything to harm us.

Détente with the Evil Empire was OK with both parties and it would have continued for God-knows how long except that my father came along in 1980.

Shortly after his inauguration, when he was asked what his foreign policy was vis-à-vis the Soviets, he shocked everyone in Washington.

"We win. They lose," he said. That was his "radical" position from Day 1 and he stuck to it.

He didn't say how he was going to achieve victory over Communism or how long it would take, but eight years later the Berlin Wall came down.

President Obama has been practicing a form of détente with ISIS.

As long as you are only slaughtering and enslaving people over in Syria and Iraq, he seems to have been saying, we'll just bomb you here and there but we won't try to destroy you.

Well, ISIS is no longer just "over there." It's in Paris and Lebanon and Egypt and it's certain to be coming soon to our backyards.

Obama says what he is doing is the right way to defeat ISIS, but that it'll take a long time.

He says we Americans have to stay the course, yet he is unwilling to change his failed course and assume leadership in the fight against terrorism.

Once he does that, his foreign policy should be real simple. "We win. They lose."

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

Capitol Notebook

Upon Further Review, Betting Over Web Looks Like Gambling

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Some decisions on legality of gambling in South Dakota have taken odd turns.

In the 1990s the Mickelson and Miller administrations and many in the Legislature declared video lottery was legal.

A court case brought by other legislators who thought it was illegal, such as Henry Poppen of DeSmet and Della Wishard of Prairie City, found otherwise.

The South Dakota Supreme Court ruled in the summer of 1994 that video lottery indeed violated the state constitution.

The terminals shut down, for a while.

Video lottery returned, after voters that November approved a constitutional amendment.

Another instance came when the state Commission on Gaming let electronic roulette into Deadwood casinos.

The state constitution didn't allow roulette, however.

A technical interpretation went right around that.

The electronic roulette games actually declared a form of slot machine.

Real roulette, along with craps and keno, became legal this year, after voters amended the state constitution last November.

Now we have a new form of digital betting that is sweeping through South Dakota. It uses fantasy sports teams chosen over the Internet.

This despite an entire chapter of state law, passed in 2000 by the