

April 18, 2009

Dear Editor,

Conservatives are frightfully confusing. Take, for example, the conservative ruckus over the recently leaked report produced by the Department of Homeland Security on right-wing extremists groups, the second of two reports commissioned by the Bush administration to assess the threat of violence from factions on both political margins.

How can anyone concerned about future threats of domestic terrorism seriously object to a prudent study of the possibility and prevention of such dangers? Was not a deficiency of similar concern at least part of what permitted the terrible events of September 11th?

Equally confusing, and frightening, are the calls from some conservatives for "revolution" and "secession". As a civil libertarian, I endeavor always to protect the constitutional freedom of speech, a freedom exercised across the nation last Wednesday in many small but energetic "Tea Bag" protests. However, I cannot object when Homeland Security officials closely scrutinize groups buying weapons in large quantities while calling for the rending of our nation not three months since the Republicans lost control after democratic elections.

I'll even admit to feeling just a bit sorry for conservatives; after having put up with Bush and Cheney for eight very long years, I and the rest of the nation can understand all too well how they feel. But secession? Revolution? Isn't this all taking the familiar conservative retort, "America, love it or leave it", just a little too far? In their childish petulance, the conservative movement seems at least determined to destroy themselves, and possibly even our nation.

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