

MIKE ROGERS: IRS SCANDAL IS REAL, NSA SCANDAL IS NOT; AP COLLECTION IS A DRAGNET, SECTION 215 COLLECTION IS NOT

One of the four members of Congress with greatest influence over this country's "intelligence," House Intelligence Chair Mike Rogers, claims that the IRS scandal is real and the risk of NSA dragnet is not.

Rogers said Amash's amendment, which stops the NSA from collecting data under the Patriot Act, was an attempt to take advantage of anger over recent scandals including the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of conservative groups applying for tax exempt status and the Justice Department's probe of Associated Press journalists in connection to a leak about a thwarted terrorist plot that originated in Yemen.

"It's certainly inflammatory and certainly misleading," Rogers said Wednesday in an interview on Michigan radio station WTKG 1230. "I think, he tried to take advantage at any rate of people's anger of the IRS scandal, which is real, and the AP –Associated Press dragnet by the Attorney General, Benghazi –all of those things are very real and there's no oversight function "What they're talking about doing is turning off a program that after 9/11 we realized we missed –we the intelligence community- missed a huge clue." [my emphasis]

Note, too, that Rogers calls the (completely

inappropriate) collection of the phone records for 20 AP phone lines a “dragnet,” but somehow doesn’t think the collection of the phone records for every single American is also a dragnet.

Again, this dude plays a significant role in this country’s “intelligence.”

From there, Rogers declined into outright misinformation.

Rogers added that NSA’s telephone data collection program has helped thwart over 50 terrorist plots.

The Section 215 collection – the only thing that would be affected by the Amash-Conyers amendment – has had a role in (per Keith Alexander’s latest claims) 13 plots.

Not 50.

13.

I can’t think of a better way for Mike Rogers to demonstrate that these programs have insufficient oversight – in which the Intelligence Committees play a crucial role – than to open his yap and make such ludicrous statements.