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Thank You!!

Republican Presidential Candidate
Congressman Ron Paul

For providing your straight-forward & truthful answers to our questions:

- Q:** The Congress, led by VP Cheney and Senator Rockefeller, is set to grant retroactive immunity from prosecution for the major telecom companies who repeatedly violated individual civil liberties. This new FISA law will also have the effect of protecting the Bush Administration from the risk of disclosure in the Courts of any of their other possible related acts of law-breaking and corruption. Where do you stand on this issue?
- A:** I have opposed the Patriot Act since its inception, for fear of inexcusable government encroachment upon our civil liberties. The Fourth Amendment clearly prohibits the government from permitting major telecom companies to eavesdrop on the American citizens, and the Bush administration's wiretapping authorization is a flagrant violation of our Constitutional liberties. We must drastically limit the government's ability to collect and store information on citizens' private matters, and oppose all measures protecting the Bush administration and the telecom companies that violated citizens' individual civil liberties. They cannot claim carte blanche and elude their constitutional obligations. We must not be complacent on this issue, and we must demand the administration face the full justice of the law. I therefore oppose the new FISA law and all other attempts to strengthen the surveillance state and weaken government accountability.
- Q:** Article One Section 9 of the US Constitution states that the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public safety may require it. As President, do you pledge to uphold this provision 100% and without exception?
- A:** I absolutely 100% pledge to uphold Article One, Section 9, as I take my marching orders directly from the US Constitution. There are very few circumstances under which the Constitution would expressly authorize a suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, as our lives and liberties are not the government's for the taking.
- Q:** The Fourth Amendment contained in the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution states: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized. As President, do you pledge to uphold this provision 100% and without exception?
- A:** I absolutely pledge, without exception, to uphold the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. When the Founders affixed their names to the Constitution, they could not have imagined the abuses and usurpations of privacy that would be committed in the name of security. We must oppose state control of society, and demand freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.
- Q:** The Congress has the sole power to raise armies and declare war. So is the hiring of mercenaries and/or subcontractor soldiers by the Executive branch either Constitutional or lawful, in your opinion?
- A:** The Constitution states that Congress has the sole power to raise armies and declare war, but I support allowing the US State Department to issue Letters of Marque and Reprisal. Article I, Section 8, paragraph 11 of the Constitution authorizes Congress to "grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;" and in 2001 I introduced legislation to allow Congress to authorize the President to specifically target terrorists by permitting private citizens to track down Osama Bin Laden and his associates.
- Q:** Do you believe that publicly revealing the identity of a covert CIA agent by government officials or journalists is permissible under any circumstances?
- A:** I believe that covert CIA operations flout the Constitution and want to diminish government secrecy wherever possible, making the government fully accountable for its actions to we, the people. Therefore, I do believe it is legally permissible for journalists and government officials to publicly reveal the identities of covert CIA agents, especially when engaged in extraconstitutional affairs.
- Q:** If it were proven that VP Cheney fabricated the stories that Saddam had W.M.D.'s, or about his involvement with terrorism as pretexts for invading Iraq, would that type of fraud against the US (which is a felony under 18 U.S.C. Section 371) be an impeachable offense, in your opinion?
- A:** If it were proven that Vice President Cheney had colluded with others to fabricate stories that Saddam Hussein possessed WMD's or was involved with terrorism, which he touted as pretexts for invading Iraq, I believe this would certainly be an impeachable offense. 18 U.S.C. § 371 describes conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States, and if found to have engaged in dishonest practices in connection with a program administered by a government agency, Vice President Cheney would have committed a felonious act, and would need to be held accountable for defrauding the American people.

For more information, or to contribute questions, ideas, comments, financial or other support, visit:



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SUMMARY OF RULES (GoTo: www.nhasks.org for complete details)

- 1) Citizens may submit suggested questions to: suggest@nhasks.org
- 2) Citizens are encouraged to rate the STR (*Straightforwardness, Truthfulness & Responsiveness*) of candidates answers by visiting: www.nhasks.org/STR
- 3) Candidates may answer via public statement, press release or from preauthorized email addresses submitted to answers@nhasks.org. Answers will be posted on www.nhasks.org intact and without editing immediately following secure authentication.