

Esquire

Yeah, Give ICE Spying Powers. That Should Go Well.

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Here is a really terrible idea to wrap up a Thursday in which the Dow dropped 1,000 points, which is generally described as “plunging,” which is a short step from “crashing.” Anyway, from Betsy Woodruff at *The Daily Beast*, here’s a really terrible idea.

Internal advocates for joining the America’s spy agencies—known as the Intelligence Community or the IC—focus on the potential benefits to the agency’s work on counterproliferation, money laundering, counterterrorism, and cybercrime. The official added that joining the IC could also be useful for the agency’s immigration enforcement work—in particular, their efforts to find and arrest undocumented immigrants with criminal arrest warrants (known in ICE as fugitive aliens).

Marvelous. These are the guys who are rousting priests and doctors, and busting parents while they’re taking their kids to school. What could work out better—in this particular administration*—than handing ICE sophisticated communications technology and access to things like warrantless wiretapping. Those liberal maniacs at the Cato Institute [have a good explainer](#) as to why this is not good for anyone.

In addition to granting more officials access to raw signals intelligence, ICE membership of the IC would almost certainly lead to ICE engaging in “[parallel construction](#),” a practice used and encouraged by the [DEA and FBI](#). Using parallel construction, members of the IC share intelligence with state and local law enforcement, who then use it to make arrests. These local police departments then construct their own parallel chain of events in order to conceal the fact that IC members tipped them off. This practice, which violates the right to a fair trial, should end. If ICE joins the IC, it’s likely to occur more often.

And what has ICE been up to without being a part of the Intelligence Community? From [NBC News](#):

Syed Ahmed Jamal, who is from Bangladesh, was about to take his daughter to school on Jan. 24 when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials showed up on his front lawn in Lawrence, Kansas, and arrested him, said his brother, Syed Hussain Jamal. “It wasn’t expected. He never expected to have ICE there,” said the brother, who lives in Phoenix. When Jamal’s stunned wife tried to hug her husband goodbye, ICE agents stopped her, telling her “that they would arrest her for interference” if she didn’t let them take him immediately, the brother said.

No, I think we’re all better off if ICE has to muddle through with the status quo until such time as somebody less off the plumb gets elected president and reins it in.