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#### Overlawyered

Chronicling the high cost of our legal system

# Bad new idea dept.: privacy takedowns

by Walter Olson on April 26, 2010

Jim Harper at Cato at Liberty <u>says</u> a proposed "Cyber Privacy Act" introduced by Thaddeus McCotter (R-Mich.) would "regulate every Internet site that has a comment section. He thinks it's going to protect privacy, but he's sorely mistaken. Its passage would undermine privacy and limit free speech."

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- August 3 roundup (6)
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Tagged as: online speech, privacy

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1 Doug 04.26.10 at 8:03 am

Why is it that Republicans can be just as bad as the Democrats in this manner?

2 Richard Nieporent 04.26.10 at 8:11 am

Because they are politicians first!

3 KB 04.26.10 at 9:19 am
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4 GregS 04.26.10 at 9:51 am

Richard.....BINGO!!!

The Republicans are just as bad as the Democrats on almost every issue because, like the Democrats, they are thoroughgoing statists. They, just like the Democrats, believe in the power of government to cure every ill that afflicts society. And like the Democrats, the distrust individual initiative and individual liberty. The only substantial difference between the two parties is on where they think government should be expanding their powers, and on which particular aspects of individual liberty they distrust and want to abolish.

5 wfjag 04.26.10 at 11:13 am

He may also be a bit of a RINO (interesting, isn't it, that there are no "DINOs"?).

Here's a couple of sites reviewing his voting record, so you can judge for yourself:

http://www.themiddleclass.org/legislator/thaddeus-mccotter-233?gclid=COf5mJHepKECFUnW5wodGiPPwQ

http://www.ontheissues.org/MI/Thad\_McCotter.htm

Still, he's been fairly good in his votes as to protecting the rights of internet users and to protect free speech. He voted for facilitating nationwide 2-1-1 phone line for human services, (Jan 2007), for a permanent ban on state & local taxation of Internet access, (Oct 2007), and to prohibit the return of the Fairness Doctrine, (Jan 2009).

This Bill appears inconsistent with his prior positions. It is entirely possible that he doesn't understand what was drafted (likely by a lobbyist) and should be contacted about what the real effects of this Bill would be.

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"Durabla Manufacturing, a Pennsylvania company that made sealing products, collapsed under the weight of 108,000 asbestos suits." [Steve Korris, MC Record]... [...] Walter Olson

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Spring issue of Federalist Society's State Court Docket Watch includes articles on Illinois liability reform, California furlough suits, Washington school finance reform, Caperton and recusal; Judge Manuel Real hammers generic product liability complaint re: pain pumps [Beck et al]... [...]

Walter Olson

• Environmental impact assessment an obligation under international customary law?

According to Cymie R. Payne at the American Society of International Law's ASIL Insight, that's one of the holdings in a new International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling in a dispute between Argentina and Uruguay over a giant pulp mill... [...] Walter Olson

• 6-5 en banc ruling in favor of class certification in Dukes v. Wal-Mart

One hopes the Supreme Court will correct this travesty of a decision; we've extensively discussed the earlier litigation. Judge Kozinski's dissent is concise and to the point about the opinion's abuse of due process issues in its construction of Rule... [...]

Ted Frank

• Look, we sued the Pope!

Lawyers for the Vatican have called the lawsuit against Pope Benedict and the Holy See a "publicity stunt." I wouldn't go so far as to say that - it has a chance of surviving a motion to dismiss and... [...]

Richard Esenberg

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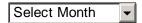
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