

INFORMATION BULLETIN

DATE: April 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Canadian Reaction to Napolitano's statements

SOURCE: Calgary Herald

Where do they get these people? Had former president George W. Bush appointed to guard America's borders a person such as Janet Napolitano who thinks 9/11 terrorists entered the U. S. from Canada, those who still respect him would be yet contending with the sneers of those who thought he was a rube surrounded by more rubes. But, President Barack Obama has appointed Napolitano as his Homeland Security Secretary, and that is exactly what she told the CBC's Washington correspondent, Neil Macdonald, on Monday.

Later, she recanted, saying she had misunderstood the question.

Really? It seemed simple enough. She having declared, "To the extent that terrorists have come into our country, or suspected or known terrorists have entered our country across a border, it's been across the Canadian border," Macdonald asked if she was referring to the 9/11 attackers. She replied, "Not just those, but others as well."

If she wasn't mentally nimble enough to follow the thread of such an uncomplicated conversation, what else does she not understand? Is it too much to hope a person tapped by the president for high office would exceed the average savvy by a margin proportionate to their promotion?

It speaks ill of Napolitano and the people who chose her, that she was not reflexively familiar with the main conclusions of the 9/11 Commission's 2004 report. Had she been, she would have known those responsible for 9/11 entered the

U. S. via major U.S. airports, on legitimate U.S. documents, and none came through Canada. To suppose otherwise is to embrace a peer group that also believes Elvis lives, and flying saucers abduct housewives in Milwaukee.

Anybody can have an off day, and some may dismiss Napolitano's statements as appeasement of an important Obama faction in the Hispanic community. But, that won't do. Her public utterances show a consistently misinformed understanding of the U. S.-Canadian border.

In February, the former Arizona governor--criticized as weak on security along her state's Mexican border during her term--ordered a review of 49th parallel security, saying the terrorist threat was greater there than on the Mexican border. Last month, she said Canada should be treated the same as Mexico--as if there were any real similarities.

As long as she repeats this rubbish, the corrections that follow are unpersuasive.

Canadian Ambassador to the U. S. Michael Wilson does his best to sow truth in hard soil, but this needs to be dealt with at the top. It is now for Prime Minister Stephen Harper to deal directly with Obama, to ensure the border remains open to visitors and convenient to trade.

Unchecked by higher authority, Napolitano's vaulting ignorance is capable of serious harm to Canada.