

## **Cops and prosecutors don't sound like thugs**

by Mitch Henck

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Gestapo tactics! That has been a long standing cry on conservative talk radio about the John Doe investigation of Gov. Scott Walker and friends.

Suddenly major doubt is being raised about the suggestion of jack-booted thuggery in the case.

Longtime Walker aide Cindy Archer told The National Review it felt like a home invasion when her house was raided in September 2011. She said officers pounded on her door screaming while carrying a battering ram. She said she was frantically put her clothes on in front of her invaders. She said she cried out, "Don't shoot my dogs."

Worse yet she said the lead officer threw the warrant at her and wouldn't let her read it. "He towered over me and put his finger in my face and yelled like a drill sergeant that I would do it his way or he would handcuff me."

What? Last week Dan Bice of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel posted the recently released audio of the raid. Lead investigator Aaron Weiss is heard calmly reading Archer her rights at length. He then allows her a cup of coffee and the chance to smoke a cigarette. There is no yelling on the tape as officers appear to be at ease with her dogs. Far from frantic, either Archer or her partner can be heard laughing in the background while officers conduct their search of records.

We have yet to hear audio of the other raids. But the presumption law enforcement acted like goons may be premature.

Say what you want about the John Doe. Yes, Republicans point out that Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm's wife is a teachers union activist who wants to get Walker. Chisholm launched the John Doe. Democrats point out with glee that Wisconsin Club for Growth is estimated to have spent \$507,000 helping to elect Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, and \$520,000 to help Justice David Prosser's campaign. While we're cooking, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce spent an estimated \$1.8 million for Gableman and \$1.1 million for Prosser.

But then again, who else would spend money on those guys, the teachers unions?

John Doe special prosecutor Francis Schmitz wanted Prosser and Gableman to step aside from the case since they were helped by the very groups said to have worked with Team Walker on his re-election. Nope. Because of Prosser and Gableman staying on the case, the John Doe investigation was ended by a 4-to-2 vote.

Now Schmitz wants the court to reconsider its ruling. It is a sign that Schmitz may take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. When conservatives rant about the witch-hunt and the crack of dawn raids in the John Doe, remember that law enforcement officers had warrants.

It is also true that under the John Doe law, investigations are carried out in secret to protect those who are not charged. If you don't like it, change the law.

But be careful about suggesting that prosecutors and cops are acting like members of the Gestapo.