

From: Gordon Wayne Watts
To: Kyle Glenn
Subject: Looked like a 'flip-flop,' but it can't be...
Date: Thursday, 17 July 2014

Kyle, thank you for all the legislative help you've given me and other constituents of U.S. Rep. Dennis A. Ross (R-Fla.-15th). Here is that email with several questions I had...

First off, before I ask any question, or offer any constituent feedback, I wanted to remind you of a misunderstanding ... see the famous “Heavy Hand” letter that published back on Thursday, January 24, 2013.

Link: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20130124/EDIT02/130129635>

Cache: <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:xiDObaI1ltsJ:www.theledger.com/article/20130124/EDIT02/130129635+%22Although+I+agree+with+his+fiscal-cliff+no+vote,+this+time,+here+is+a+canard%22&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

Cache: <http://gordonwaynewatts.com/RepRoss/Heavy-Hand-Letter.jpg>

Cache: <http://gordonwatts.com/RepRoss/Heavy-Hand-Letter.jpg>

As you can see, I didn't pull any punches, and came out swinging hard! -and “ganged up” on him, by calling in “many people” reinforcement... LOL.

However, notice that, as soon as I found out what happened, I issued a retraction, because I wanted to clear his innocent name: <http://gordonwatts.com/Twittergate.html>

Cache (top of page) <http://gordonwaynewatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-1.JPG>

Cache (top of page) <http://gordonwatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-1.JPG>

Cache (middle of page) <http://gordonwaynewatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-2.JPG>

Cache (middle of page) <http://gordonwatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-2.JPG>

I also issued a retraction on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dennis.ross.376/posts/506781639372174>

Cache: <http://gordonwaynewatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-3.JPG>

Cache: <http://gordonwatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-3.JPG>

And also, on the same page as the letter, itself:

Screenshot: <http://gordonwaynewatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-4.JPG>

Screenshot: <http://gordonwatts.com/RepRoss/redaction-4.JPG>

Link: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20130124/EDIT02/130129635> (look at bottom of page)

Lastly, please jump to 1 minute 57 seconds of the 2nd to last THM here, where I thank Dennis for his attention to detail, when he was able to show me respect and courtesy in remembering me and addressing me by name:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7Z9wWWjTJo&list=UUfLIm8vdy6ESq1g6tgcGvmA>

Cache: http://gordonwaynewatts.com/FannyDeregulation/DennisRoss-TeleTHM-Wed21May2014_WMV.wmv

Cache: http://gordonwatts.com/FannyDeregulation/DennisRoss-TeleTHM-Wed21May2014_WMV.wmv

(Or, scroll to the bottom of this letter, here, to see images pasted in, if you're looking at this off-line, and/or don't want to click the links.)

So, while this may seem off-topic (to my actual question), it is Sine Qua Non required to show that I made Redactions/Corrections to defend Dennis when I discovered that he was not guilty as we all initially thought – and this is proof that I know the Dennis and his staff have the highest integrity, and therefore, when I ask “why did he contradict” or “flip-flop,” we can safely eliminate any integrity issues. OK... page 2 is my question...

My 'main' question... Referring, again, to the THM video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7Z9wWWjTJo&list=UUfLIm8vdy6ESq1g6tgcGvmA>

Cache: http://gordonwaynewatts.com/FannyDeregulation/DennisRoss-TeleTHM-Wed21May2014_WMV.wmv

Cache: http://gordonwatts.com/FannyDeregulation/DennisRoss-TeleTHM-Wed21May2014_WMV.wmv

Dennis is a brave Congressman who has integrity to defend both Loan Forgiveness as well as College loan Bankruptcy (which will certainly not put him in good stead with 'Old Guard' GOP leadership, and certainly not encourage bankers to continue to bankroll his upcoming campaign for reelection!).

However, in his email to me, June 02, and apparently in 2011 (based on the date on the screen shot), he said the he is against bankruptcy (one of the more commonly well-known Standard Consumer Protections). Here's a screen shot of that conversation: <http://gordonwaynewatts.com/RepRoss/DennisRoss-reply.jpg>

Mirror: <http://gordonwatts.com/RepRoss/DennisRoss-reply.jpg>

A copy/paste of the relevant sections of that conversation are as follows:

Gordon Wayne Watts June 2 at 10:16am

I posted a question about H.R. 5043 just now, and it's deleted - I guess you deleted it. Was my post offensive in some way? The issues surrounding that are explained on...For some reason, liberals support this too -and I suspect they view it as a free handout...What is your take on this issue? -- And, what about my post was offensive to motivate you to delete it?

Dennis Ross June 2 at 10:55am Report

I took it down because I wanted my constituents to see the post about the balanced budget hearing going on right now. Nothing offensive, just didn't want that post moved down the page so far.

As for HR 5043, I do not support it. Allowing discharge in bankruptcy for student loans would cause a sharp decline in availability of loans. I also do not support the federal government being the only student loan lender, as it is now after last year.

My question to Dennis is this:

Why did he appear to flip-flop on this issue (first opposing BK protections in his email, and then supporting them, which seems fair, since other borrowers have this option)? – Only 4 possible explanations exist, and I can eliminate one of them:

- 1) He could have “flip-flopped” to pander to the current opinion, but I eliminate this option, as Dennis and his current staff pass the Integrity test with 100% - going above and beyond what is required.
- 2) Dennis could have had a genuine “flip-flop” based on a change of mind, new information, etc.
- 3) Dennis is a very busy man, and it is possible that he was under pressure (he was new to office, and had not set up his staff completely), and thus maybe did not think things through.
- 4) Lastly, it is also possible that a staff member was answering emails in his name, and somehow a miscommunication occurred and/or the staffer “guessed” wrongly.

My guess would be that #4 is the most likely possibility, and this is based on the fact that Katie Hughes and I collectively agreed that this is probably what happened in the 'Heavy Hand' Facebook/Twittergate blocking scandal: We think that, probably, an overzealous staffer (who is no longer with Ross' office) got carried away...but, I don't know for sure. – It looked like a 'flip-flop,' but it can't be: Dennis is a man of integrity... Only Dennis would know why he gave 2 apparently different answers... Thank you to both you, Katie, Dennis, and his staffers for all y'all's collective assistance on this -and other matters... That was my only question, but, after hearing Sen. Rubio, I have some helpful feedback on Immigration. Please see the next page...

I did get Dennis' postal letter to me, dated July 09, 2014, in which he informs me of his co-sponsorship of H.R. 4962, the Nat'l Border & Homeland Sec. Act, which would add Border Patrol agents and fund the Border Fence, while mandating/ordering that it be built.

Good job!... but after hearing Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla) on a recent Sean Hannity program, I have a few new ideas that should probably be implemented ASAP:

- 1) Fund and mandate the building of the BORDER FENCE (Dennis' idea; Gordon's idea; Sen. Rubio's idea)
- 2) Add PATROL AGENTS (Dennis' idea, which I must've overlooked, but I will agree with this good idea)
- 3) TRACK people who have WORKER VISAS to kick out those who over-stay their visa (Sen. Rubio's idea)
- 4) Fund and mandate E-VERIFY for employers (Sen. Rubio's idea to “turn off the magnet,” since there will no longer be any “magnet” for jobs if Immigrants know that they can not be illegal and still work in the USA)
- 5) Allow State, County, and Local POLICE to enforce Immigration Policy (and help out their Federal counterparts who are overwhelmed at the present time) – this was Gordon's idea uniquely, but I'm sure that others have asked for this to be done, ARIZONA in particular, so I admit I “borrowed” their idea – all good and fine, but we need to make it Federal Law! – Teamwork: United We Stand – or Divided We Fall...
---which will it be??
- 6) I will add one more thing: We need to continue to address the root causes of this by doing anything we can to help other countries lower crime, increase jobs, etc., so their citizens will want to stay in their own countries.
- 7) We must also assure foreigners (and their friends/supporters) that we wish to help them all, but are limited on how many Immigrants we can accept.

Page 3 of 3

Inline images below in this PDF...

Messages - H.R. 5043 post -why did you delete my post & what is your take in this bill? (3) - Windows Internet Explorer

https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/page=28&sk=messages&id=1015019627373967

Facebook

H.R. 5043 post -why did you delete my post & what is your take in this bill? + New Message

Between Dennis Ross and You

Gordon Wayne Watts June 2 at 10:16am

I posted a question about H.R. 5043 just now, and it's deleted - I guess you deleted it. Was my post offensive in some way? The issues surrounding that are explained on <http://GordonWatts.com/Higher-Education-Tuition-Costs.html> or <http://GordonWayneWatts.com/Higher-Education-Tuition-Costs.html> -- briefly, students used to have bankruptcy protections, and if these standard loan protections are returned, the Federal Government will be less likely to guarantee student loans, less loans will originate, --and at a cost lower than before (Lower Tuition: since colleges will know they can't price-gouge students without risk of bankruptcy), and this will have a "side effect" of getting Government OUT of Higher-Education. (Translation: GOOD, since conservatives *want* the Govt out of Higher Education.)

For some reason, liberals support this too -and I suspect they view it as a free handout.

I don't want a free handout - I don't mind paying what I owe, but I don't want to be over-taxed to death, and tuition is technically a tax, since it is funding to a state-owned college in most cases -and a college regulated by State & Federal govt is all cases.

This is a rare issue where liberals & conservatives can see eye-to-eye and agree -instead of the usual Washington 'gridlock.'

What is your take on this issue? -- And, what about my post was offensive to motivate you to delete it?

June 2 at 10:55am Report

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As for HR 5043, I do not support it. Allowing discharge in bankruptcy for student loans would cause a sharp decline in availability of loans. I also do not support the federal government being the only student loan lender, as it is now after last year.

Gordon Wayne Watts June 2 at 11:26am

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Between Dennis Ross and You



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and...



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Gordon Wayne Watts June 2 at 11:26am

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[LETTER] Ross Has Heavy Hand Online

Published: Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 12:41 a.m.
Last Modified: Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 12:41 a.m.

Re: "Ross: Spending Cuts Needed to Reduce Deficit," Jan. 2. Your article begins with this paraphrase: "Rep. Dennis Ross would have voted against legislation to stop from going over the fiscal cliff even if it meant going over it."

Although I agree with his fiscal-cliff no vote, this time, here is a canard: Because he voted yes on four of six pork-laden appropriation bills in his tenure, Ross is not conservative. Appropriation bills are huge and dwarf all other spending.

However, when I tried to express my views on this and other political matters on his Facebook page, he deleted all my comments and blocked me from posting.

Were this his personal Facebook page or Twitter feed, this would be immoral, but not illegal. However, so long as I don't threaten, harass or use vulgar language, I have a right to post on his public page, distinct from a private or personal page. He's violating free-speech rights and, by extension, First Amendment rights of redress.

Most readers know that, while I have strong opinions, I've never gotten banned from The Ledger's forums, so I'm clearly not a troublemaker.

Furthermore, if it were "just Gordon" complaining, you might give Ross the benefit of the doubt.

However, many people are making complaints that Ross unjustly blocked them from these social networks.

If Ross is not justified in this, then why is he doing it? To silence those who disagree with legislative requests of rich campaign contributors?

GORDON WAYNE WATTS

Lakeland

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- * Judicial Panel Endorses Reprimand of Polk Judge Accused of Inappropriate Relationship
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HARRY'S

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UPDATE: (Thr. 24 Jan. 2013) -- As of Wednesday, 23 January 2013, I am 'unblocked' and now able to post on Ross' Facebook page. Also, oddly-enough, a letter to the editor of a local paper published only about 12 hours after Ross' staff unblocked me, but this appears to be an unrelated coincidence, since Ross' office could not have reacted to the letter before it had published; thus, their unblocking me was a genuine, honest action, not a 'reaction' to news media pressure, which had not manifested until about 12 hours *after* their action. More details are below. -- End of update

-----Original Message-----
Date: Thr, 13 December 2012 (4:41:45 P.M. -0500) 04:41:45 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Subject: 'Twittergate' (Update on the very bizarre U.S. Congressman)
From: Gordon W. Watts <gww1210@aol.com>
To: Gww1210@aol.com
Bcc: [Undisclosed recipients]

Dear friends at The Tampa Tribune, The Ledger, and elsewhere --

You recall my email this past Nov. 30, I'm sure, where I told you that my U.S. Congressman, Dennis A. Ross (R-Fla-12th) was acting ****very**** bizarre and blocking a ****whole**** bunch of people from his Twitter, Facebook, and basically most/all of his social media. (Hence the subject title of this email: "Twittergate...", "a takeoff on Nixon's 'Watergate' scandal.)

But, since I admitted that I had no proof to document my claims he was also doing this to others, I'm sure I looked like a loony-tune: In fact, one reporter I'm friends with asked me if I provoked the Congressman by (for example) posting too much, which was not an unreasonable question: On occasion I'm a bit talkative. (That was not the case here, though.)

However, since my last email, I did find ample evidence of the Congressman blocking a BUNCH of people from ALL of his major social media—for no other reason than they disagree with him, including, of course, his "public" Facebook, which is supposed to be open to all constituents to "hear our views" and help him represent us—so, now armed with the ability to cite sources & document my "wild claims," I am notifying you of this, in case you too are alarmed that a Congressman REFUSES to hear from his constituents when their views slightly disagree or differ from his own:

1) >> Congressman Ross, when confronted by a large, angry crowd, admitted that he blocked/banned a bunch of "postal employees" from his public Facebook page (not to be confused with his personal Facebook) allegedly "for abusive, vulgar, or personal attacks...because their posts and messages were abusive or bordering on the slanderous."
Source: www.GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Update-on-Ross-ban-block-situation.ioo

and...

http://gordonwatts.com/Twittergate.html - Opera

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Web gordonwatts.com/Twittergate.html Search with Google

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9—ANALYSIS: Brett Uphagrove, a local well-known liberal Democrat (Google: "Brett Uphagrove" if you don't know him), is critical of the Congressman and Republicans in general, for over-spending:
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/GordonWayneWatts/posts/116675478497813>
Cache 1: www.GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Brett-critical-of-GOP.JPG
Cache 2: www.GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Brett-critical-of-GOP.JPG

For Rep. Ross, who claims to be 'Conservative,' it is embarrassing to have people like Uphagrove (a liberal Democrat) saying Ross and his party are too liberal in how they over-spend. (That's like the time Communist Cuba offered to send poll observers to Florida: It was an insult that Florida had more voting problems than a Communist country!) So, Ross deletes all his posts.

UPDATE: (Tuesday, May 21, 2013)
Here is a screenshot that Mr. Uphagrove sent me verifying his claims that he was blocked:
Cache 1: www.GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Brett-Still-Blocked.jpg
Cache 2: www.GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Brett-Still-Blocked.jpg
Notice that there is no dialogue box to enter your comment, or 'comment' link.

That was back around Thursday, April 04, 2013, the day Rep. Ross had a Towh Hall Meeting in Plant City, Fla., as documented by the following screenshot:
Cache 1: www.GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Time-stamped-TownHall-post.JPG
Cache 1: www.GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/Time-stamped-TownHall-post.JPG
(Note: The THM was actually on Thr. Apr. 04, 2013, as shown by the bottom half of this screenshot, but the top half, which has a Facebook post, apparently was posted the next day. Also, as stated in the inception of this blog entry, there was a major update: Ross' staff unblocked me, and later, unblocked Uphagrove, who we think were blocked by an over-zealous staff member no longer with Ross' office. So, Ross and his staff deserve credit here for unblocking us -and for allowing us to post unfettered on his Facebook fan page. In short, Ross' staff's unblocking of me was a genuine, honest action, not a 'reaction' to news media pressure, which had not manifested until about 12 hours *after* their action. END OF UPDATE --G.W.)

UPDATE: (Thr. 17 July 2014) ~~It is also worth noting that Rep. Ross has allowed me way more than my fair share of questions in many, probably most, of all his subsequent Town Hall Meetings, be they in person on Tele-THM's via the telephone. Also, when meeting him in person at one THM, for the first time I had seen him in person in years, he remembered me by name, was respectful, and has always shown the highest regard for me, whether anyone in the news media was looking or not. Therefore, it all adds up to convince me: I am sure that Dennis and his staff, though human, have the highest honour and moral integrity. -- End of update.~~

But, were Uphagrove's other posts slanderous, harassing, threatening? Let's see:

Here, Brett is critical of Ross for protecting the rich (an opinion he has a right to express) >>
Cache 1: www.GordonWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/BrettsPost.JPG
Cache 2: www.GordonWayneWatts.com/FannyDeregulation/BrettsPost.JPG

Here, Brett expresses his opinion about the famous "Grover Norquist" tax pledge—and about water-safety regulations:

https://www.facebook.com/dennis.ross.376/posts/506781639372174 - Opera

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Lakeland FL news, sport... x Lakeland FL news, sport... x Ross heavy hand online g... x Ross Has Heavy Hand O... x UPDATE - - I must be ho... x

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Gordon Wayne Watts · Dennis Ross
January 24, 2013 ·


UPDATE - - I must be honest & admit something I just now learned: Dennis Ross office called me at 11:59am on Wednesday morning the 23rd telling me I was unblocked (and I was), but my letter didn't publish until Thursday morning (see the dates), so whatever other BEEFS I have with Dennis' liberal votes or blocking of others, I must be an honest Christian & admit that he didn't unblock me in reaction to my letter: It published **after** the fact -- maybe he got nasty calls from reporters, or maybe he really is open to hear all views -- I shall give Dennis full faith/credit & I shall give him the benefit of the doubt.

THAT SAID, I am still NOT PLEASED that in 4 of his 6 appropriations bill votes (the huge yearly bills that are much larger than anything else practically) he voted 'yes' -and during this time Nat'l Debt continued to increase nonstop, so I hold him (and many others) responsible for this -- and would suggest that if they don't stop the "nonstop spending" they'd be better off just **printing** a Million Dollars for each US citizen & QUICKLY crashing our dollar, instead of this slow-painful process. (Also, he seems to care about the college underclass, but no real reform is happening yet; this is all a developing story. LOL ;(

OK, my conscience is clear.

RE: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20130124/EDIT02/130129635/1037/edit02?Title=Ross-Has-Heavy-Hand-Online>

[LETTER]
"Ross Has Heavy Hand Online" (by Gordon Wayne Watts)
Published: Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 12:41 a.m.
The Ledger of LAKELAND



Ross Has Heavy Hand Online

Re: "Ross: Spending Cuts Needed to Reduce Deficit," Jan. 2. Your article begins with this paraphrase: "Rep. Dennis Ross would have voted against legislation to stop from going over the fiscal cliff even if it meant going over it."

THELEDGER.COM

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Robert More and Gordon Wayne Watts like this.

Gordon Wayne Watts long-story-short: My letter published **after** Dennis' office unblocked me (thus allowing me to post here), so their good deed was not a reaction to my letter (which had not, as yet, published) -probably, Dennis' & his staff's actions were for the right motives.// 😊

January 24, 2013 at 10:51pm · 2

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Date and Time Properties

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start Welcome to Faceboo... http://gordonwatts.c... https://www.faceboo... Piriform CCleaner QuestionsForRepRos... 2:13 PM

www.theledger.com/article/20130124/EDIT02/130129635

Don Gifford - ★ Top Commenter · Urbana University
 At least he's trying to reign in the debt. Most of congress don't have a clue. I hate pork barrel politics too but when the man does something right he should be commended for it.
 Reply · Like · 4 · January 24, 2013 at 5:29am

Bill Simpkins - ★ Top Commenter · Warner University
 It's a shame that you politicians only want to reign in debt, by taking away programs that help the needy, but refuse to take away anything that give so much to the rich.
 Reply · Like · 8 · January 24, 2013 at 6:06am

Jonathan Atkinson - ★ Top Commenter · Lakeland, Florida
 Rewards him for his good deeds while he votes yes on pork??? How is that "trying" to reign in on the debt?
 Reply · Like · 6 · January 24, 2013 at 1:55pm

Bob Nickell - ★ Top Commenter
 So, Don? Is extending a water line from Mulberry to the Kingsford area, so residents won't have to worry about arsenic in the water, pork barrel politics? Is funding research into citrus greening so Polk's leading industry won't go belly up pork? I guess it's not pork when it's in your backyard. Right, Don?
 Reply · Like · 4 · January 24, 2013 at 3:08pm

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Gordon Wayne Watts - ★ Top Commenter · Florida State University
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 Reply · Like · 3 · January 24, 2013 at 10:03pm

Chinese Brush Style Art Class
 St. Paul's Vacation Bible School
 Images of Polk: White Picket Fences

ST. PETERSBURG CLEARWATER #LiveAmplified
 MEGA GIVEAWAY
 FIND A HOME BASE
 SNEAK PEEK
 LIVE AMPLIFIED.

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start Welcome to Facebo... http://gordonwatts... http://www.google... Pinform CCleaner QuestionsForRepr... Ross Has Heavy Ha... Heavy-Hand-Letter... 2:17 PM

Don Gifford has good words for Dennis Ross...

...and so do I:

I issued a redaction here, as well as other places.

-- Gordon // :-)

Summary:

So, page 1 is just an "I've got your back" page, showing I'm trying to follow Jesus' example (John 13:15; I Peter 2:21), and let you know that ,while I'm human, my intents and motives are pure.

Page 2 is my main question, and page 3 are policy and legislative suggestions.

Thank you, in advance, Kyle and Dennis, for whatever help you may afford in solving this mystery here on page 2 of the apparent contradiction.

Gordon Wayne Watts