No-Fly Wednesdays

If you are among the millions of Americans preparing to travel for the Thanksgiving holidays but are not a frequent flyer, you may be in for a shock when you get to the airport. You are likely to be asked to stand motionless in an x-ray scanner, with your hands up in the air, while Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees examine your body image on a monitor—an image that essentially shows you naked. The sample images shown on television news reports have been "sanitized" to make them appear less intrusive, but the truth is that the operator can see your breasts and genitals in a fair amount of detail.

Even more unnerving than being ogled by a stranger—who may have sought the job precisely because of its voyeuristic benefits—is the fact that your body is being subjected to a large dose of radiation. The TSA perverts may not care, but your body's mutating cells might.

Of course, you have the "right" to refuse standing in the scanner—in which case a TSA employee will yell "Opt out!" and you will be pulled to the side and subjected to a completely humiliating pat-down of your body. You will be groped, felt up, squeezed and otherwise abused up and down your body, including your breasts and genitals. Depending on the airport, this may be done in full view of other passengers. You will be separated from your personal belongings—which you may or may not see again—and the likelihood of the process being viewed by more than a few TSA thugs is high. (For many airline passengers, TSA now means "Total Sexual Assault" or Totalitarian Sexual Abuse.")

Say anything critical of the operation or mention a right to privacy and you may find a cadre of cops rushing in to make sure that any old-fashioned ideas about freedom that you may have had are quickly crushed—all for the "common good," of course.

No one at the TSA or the airlines—or in the halls of Congress—seems to be aware of a document called the U.S. Constitution, and one particular portion of its text called the Fourth Amendment:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

I may be radical in my thinking, but I believe that having a complete stranger fondle my crotch in the hopes of finding plastic explosives would come under the category of "unreasonable search." No judge has issued a warrant for my body search, and I can hardly think of any "probable cause" for fondling me. After all, my first, middle, and last name are not Mohammed—or any variation thereof.

It is worth noting that when the x-ray scanners were introduced to the media by the Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, *she* did not volunteer to enter the machine for a demonstration. No, she had one of her staffers scanned. (Granted, very few normal people are likely to have a desire to see "Butch" Napolitano's naked body, but those who do have no doubt already sent in their employment resumes to the TSA.) Napolitano has not explained to the public why fondling a little girl results in a prison sentence for anyone but a TSA employee, although I'm sure she believes "the system works."

The porno scanners and the groping are not yet in place in all U.S. airports, but enough have implemented the new security procedures to have generated some reports of angered, annoyed, upset, humiliated, sobbing, and otherwise mistreated and abused airline passengers. You need not search long on the Internet to find the stories. I encourage you to do so now. After you have been thoroughly outraged, return to this article.

Here are a few:

http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig11/tyner1.1.1.html

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http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40291856/ns/travel-news

http://www.therightscoop.com/tsa-makes-little-boy-remove-shirt-during-pat-down

http://www.prisonplanet.com/tsa-now-putting-hands-down-fliers-pants.html

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http://freedominourtime.blogspot.com/2010/11/daedalus-shrugged-mountingresistance.html

http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=228781

http://www.redstate.com/laborunionreport/2010/11/14/public-protests-as-tsa-torpedoesconstitution/

http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=227005

http://townhall.com/columnists/SteveChapman/2010/11/14/get_the_government_out_of_ our_pants/page/full/

http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/dont-let-strip-and-grope-become-the-newnormal/?singlepage=true http://www.lewrockwell.com/akers/akers135.html

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http://aviationblog.dallasnews.com/archives/2010/11/union-president-tells-us-airwa.html

http://airlinenightmare.com/blog/

http://dontscan.us/

http://www.stopdigitalstripsearches.org/

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http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2010/10/29/AR2010102906766.html

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jan/04/new-scanners-child-porn-laws

http://www.f2a.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2668:janet-porter-<u>qpick-a-tsa-line-naked-scanner-or-govt-molestationq&catid=70:wnd-column-by-janet-</u> <u>porter&Itemid=150</u>

http://www.lewrockwell.com/spl2/tsa-porno-scanners.html

http://www.lewrockwell.com/wenzel/wenzel46.1.html

http://www.wnd.com/airportscreening

http://www.wnd.com/?pageId=226777

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http://www.lewrockwell.com/anderson/anderson300.html

http://www.lewrockwell.com/muratore/muratore17.1.html

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http://barenakedislam.wordpress.com/2010/08/01/canada-allows-veiled-muslim-womanto-bypass-airport-security-checks/

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http://lewrockwell.com/akers/akers166.html

Welcome back. Are you angry? I thought you would be.

These outrageous procedures must be stopped. No one should be subjected to this treatment before boarding an airplane—unless authorities have a *specific* reason to search a *specific* person. If the public continues to accept this abuse without complaint, the process will no doubt be extended to train stations and bus terminals, concert halls and stadiums, libraries and office buildings. Big Brother wants to watch you—and Big Brother's friends and relatives want to earn fortunes from selling x-ray machines and operating security service businesses.

But don't we need to stop the radical Islamists from blowing up airplanes? The reasonable response to that risk is to have swarthy, bearded Muslims from Yemen and Saudi Arabia subjected to careful scrutiny. But a power-mad government thug does not need to take a container of applesauce away from an 85-year-old grandmother in a wheelchair, or grab the crotch of a veteran who has an artificial leg, or fondle a ten-year-old child in front of hundreds of people so that she can spend the rest of the day crying and the rest of her life in therapy.

The truth is that the terrorists do not need to blow up any more airplanes to defeat us. All they need to do is disrupt our lives—day after day after day—and cost us billions of dollars on x-ray scanners, federal employee salaries, and millions of lost hours of manpower. *In other words, they have already won.* While we are standing in long security lines, radical Islamists around the world are laughing at us. *"Look at those stupid Americans!"* They may as well have planted a whoopee cushion on every chair in the United States.

This nonsense must end. Thankfully, the backlash has already started, with increasing numbers of people choosing to drive to their travel destinations rather than fly. Where that is possible, I encourage doing so. If you have the time, spend a day or two driving to Florida instead of flying. Let a few mom-and-pop restaurants and gas stations along the way make a few dollars, rather than an airline that does not care enough about its passengers to do anything for them beyond advising them to arrive at the airport early and asking nonsensical questions like, "Has anyone placed anything in your luggage without your knowledge?

If you change your plans to avoid flying make sure you write a letter to the airline explaining why you chose to drive to Orlando. Better yet, drive to Dollywood in Tennessee and skip Florida altogether. Then write a letter to Disney World explaining that the Magic Kingdom is not worth cancer-causing radiation or a feel-up by a Barney Frank look-alike.

A "We Won't Fly" campaign (<u>http://wewontfly.com/about</u>) has already been started. That is a worthwhile step that may cost the airlines considerable revenue. But it is not always possible to avoid taking a trip by air. The government knows it and the airlines know it and the TSA will not change its policies unless it is forced to do so. A few letters to the TSA, your Congressman, and your Senators will do nothing. (Several million letters might have an impact.) The travel industry—which has Washington lobbyists you and I cannot afford—has to be hit in its wallet, and that cannot be accomplished with a few thousand people who rarely fly choosing never to fly. The industry not only has to lose revenue, there must *also* be a dramatic impact—one which will be obvious and which will also prompt news stories. What can we do?

A national "Opt Out Day" has also been suggested. The idea is to publicize the growing objection to the x-ray scanners by having *everyone* who travels by air on November 24, 2010 request not to be x-rayed, forcing hundreds of thousands of "pat-downs." Although such a campaign will certainly bring attention to the issue—it will also cause hundreds of

thousands of people to miss their flights. That may anger grandma as much as the TSA. I suggest that *every* day should be an "opt out" day. Unfortunately, you can only opt out of the scanner; you cannot opt out of the groping—unless you change you travel plans and go over the river and through the woods via automobile. (http://www.optoutday.com/)

No-Fly Wednesday

I propose a nationwide "No-Fly Wednesday" campaign. The idea is simple. By all means avoid flying if and when you can but, if you *must* fly, schedule your trips so that you *never* fly on a Wednesday. If you were planning on a Wednesday departure, make it Tuesday or Thursday instead. Make your return trip any day but Wednesday. Leave one day earlier or stay one day later.

If enough people engage in the No-Fly Wednesday campaign the airports will be almost deserted one day of every week. The airlines will lose money if some people choose never to fly. But if no one flys on Wednesday, porters will collect no tips for transferring luggage, airport restaurants will have no customers, gift shops will have no sales, taxi drivers will lose passengers and tips, car rental desks will sit idle, hotels will lose guests, and airport traffic cops will write no tickets and collect no bribes. The airline and travel industries—which have shown virtually no interest in standing up for the rights of their customers—will hurt where it hurts the most: their wallets. (They may make up some of their lost revenue on Thursday through Tuesday, but certainly not all of it.)

Most importantly, No-Fly Wednesdays will make the news. There is little for the media to report if the airlines lose some passengers every day of the week. But if most passengers are all lost on the same day, Wednesday, the story will most certainly make the evening news—perhaps multiple times. There will be a dramatic impact when cameramen film deserted airline terminals in Chicago, Atlanta, New York, Newark, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. A "We Won't Fly" campaign might make page three of the newspaper, but an effective "No-Fly Wednesday" campaign will make the evening news on all major broadcast and cable networks. Although it is impossible to persuade most people to *never* fly, it is possible to persuade them to avoid flying on Wednesdays. Rather than asking people to sit on the sidelines, start a parade and ask them to join in.

Pass this suggestion on to your relatives and friends. Together we can remind the travel industry—and our incompetent legislators—that "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated..."

Don Fredrick November 11, 2010 Note:

On November 12, 2010 CNSNews.com reported: "The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has issued a travel warning to Muslim airline passengers on U.S. aircraft in response to the Transportation Safety Administration's 'enhanced pat down' policy that went into effect in late October. CAIR said Muslims who object to full-body scans for religious reasons should know their rights if they are required to undergo a pat-down, including asking for the procedure to be done in a private place. In addition, CAIR offered a 'special recommendation' for Muslim women who wear a hijab, telling them they should tell the TSA officer that they may be searched only around the head and neck."

Anyone who would like to avoid both the x-ray scanners and the body groping by a TSA can apparently show up at the airport wearing a hijab, claim to be a Muslim, and sail on through security with barely a grab or a grope. How nice.

http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/muslim-group-advises-women-wearing-hijab