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**From:** Lerner Lois G  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:21 PM  
**To:** Flax Nikole C; Eldridge Michelle L; Lemons Terry L; Marks Nancy J  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed answers: Washington Post Editorial Board

**It isn't the balance I am focused on --it's the idea that we know --that sounds like we track it and we don't. Doesn't look good if it looks like we check to see what side of the aisle an org is on.**

*Lois G. Lerner*

Director of Exempt Organizations

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**From:** Flax Nikole C  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 4:17 PM  
**To:** Lerner Lois G; Eldridge Michelle L; Lemons Terry L; Marks Nancy J  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed answers: Washington Post Editorial Board

(b)(5)

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**From:** Lerner Lois G  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 4:09 PM  
**To:** Flax Nikole C; Eldridge Michelle L; Lemons Terry L  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed answers: Washington Post Editorial Board

**I can't confirm that there was anyone on the other side of the political spectrum --I think that sentence presumes we keep track of which side of the aisle an or falls --we don't. The one with names used were only know because that have been very loud in the press. I think that line is dangerous**

*Lois G. Lerner*

Director of Exempt Organizations

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**From:** Flax Nikole C  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:44 PM  
**To:** Lerner Lois G; Eldridge Michelle L; Lemons Terry L  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed answers: Washington Post Editorial Board

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**From:** Flax Nikole C  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:35 PM  
**To:** Eldridge Michelle L; Vozne Jennifer L; Lemons Terry L; Miller Steven T  
**Cc:** Patterson Dean J  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed answers: Washington Post Editorial Board

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**From:** Eldridge Michelle L  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 3:15 PM  
**To:** Flax Nikole C; Vozne Jennifer L; Lemons Terry L  
**Cc:** Patterson Dean J  
**Subject:** Proposed answers: Washington Post Editorial Board

Here is the proposed answer based on our discussion. Comments or concerns?

Proposed answer:

Here is our full statement. I have also answered your questions below.

**IRS Statement**

[REDACTED]

(b)(5)

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Stromberg, Stephen W [<mailto:stephen.stromberg@wpost.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2013 1:46 PM  
**To:** Burke Anthony  
**Subject:** From Washington Post Editorial Board

Hi –

I am writing an on-deadline editorial on the Tea Party/IRS issue, filing by 4:30 p.m. at the latest. At the moment, I have three questions:

Why weren't there protections in place to ensure that selecting out groups of a particular political stripe was not possible? What procedures are in place now to prevent this, both in the tax -exempt office and elsewhere in the IRS?

[REDACTED]

(b)(5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(5)

[REDACTED]

Who has led the investigation into this episode? Is someone else inside or outside of the IRS going to investigate further?

(b)(5)

Thanks in advance.

Best,  
Steve Stromberg

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