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GOVT 490

03DEC2019

Explanation of Film

For my film I chose to cover the topic of the Patriot Act and domestic surveillance. Throughout this course we have talked not only about the idea of government but also “justice”. In my film I attempt to explain the vast civil liberties erosion that terrorism has caused. In the aftermath of 9/11 the US government enacted wide spread legislation that created a culture of overreach instead of oversight. Throughout my video I try to examine not only the physical cost but the mental toll that the Patriot Act and other Orwellian bills have caused. As the scope creep only further expands, the NSA and other surveillance operations continue to receive an extraordinary amount of taxpayer money to surveil not only terrorists but also the American Citizen. Below is a copy of the script I used to brief the four interviewees for my video, I briefed them on the Patriot Act as well as other Post 9/11 Era Bills before asking them their thoughts.

“According to the Department of Justice, the Patriot Act simply expanded the application of tools already being used against drug dealers and organized crime. The act aimed to improve homeland security by:

*allowing law enforcement to use surveillance and wiretapping to investigate terror-related crimes*

*allowing federal agents to request court permission to use roving wiretaps to track a specific terrorist suspect*

*allowing delayed notification search warrants to prevent a terrorist from learning they are a suspect*

*allowing federal agents to seek federal court permission to obtain bank records and business records to aid in national security terror investigations and prevent money laundering for terrorism financing*

*improving information and intelligence sharing between government agencies*

*providing tougher penalties for convicted terrorists and those who harbor them*

*allowing search warrants to be obtained in any district where terror-related activity occurs, no matter where the warrant is executed*

*ending the statute of limitations for certain terror-related crimes*

*making it harder for aliens involved in terrorist activities to enter the United States*

*providing aid to terrorism victims and public safety officers involved in investigating or preventing terrorism or responding to terrorist attacks*

It was my goal to try and have informed citizens to interview. As such, I interviewed one random person, one american immigrant, one government official and one former intelligence official.

My editing techniques used were

1. Superimposed words over patriotic images to allow the viewer to gain context about a very difficult and high context situation
2. The use of transitions over videos with near seamless video to try and present a docuseries style film
3. The humorous “ultra slow” Bushism to add an element of humor amidst all of the dark material.

It was my goal to try and create a raw and unedited feel much like a low budget documentary. I used unredacted interviews and no soundproofing. At the request of my interview team I chose not to add their names or current positions so as to keep their opinions protected. My end goal is to present a daunting reality to the future contributors of American society. My video is accessible on the internet through private link and is available on my blog.