

## The Deeply State

July 13, 2018

FBI agent Peter Strzok is offended.

Deeply.

He takes pains to clarify: he sent emails during the last presidential campaign expressing a willingness and readiness and commitment to preventing a Trump Presidency because he, Agent Strzok, is patriotic.

Deeply.

During yesterday's contentious congressional interrogation, fielding questions regarding just how anti-Trump he was during the last presidential campaign, Peter Strzok denied that

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his obvious and admitted political bias affected his professional conduct.

"Like many people, I had and expressed personal political opinions during an extraordinary presidential election," said Agent Strzok. "My opinions were expressed out of deep patriotism."



But it wasn't just a matter of expression, was it? One text message was an assurance that he would "stop" Trump's election. When challenged on this, Strzok admitted that his memory was faulty.

Deeply?

"At no time, in any text," Strzok said, decisively, "did those personal beliefs enter into the realm of any action I took."

When a citizen expresses a credible threat to a president, federal agents investigate. His exchange with his "girlfriend," Lisa Page, was not what we now call an "existential threat," of course. Ms. Page had texted her worry about a Trump win: the man was "not ever going to become president, right? Right?!" Strzok's reply was not vague: "No. No he won't. We'll stop it." The threat is, at most, covert-political, back-room. FBI-ish. The couple were, after all, a part of an investigation into Donald Trump's alleged Russian connection.

Though one could easily understand a married man assuring his inamorata simply to puff himself up in her eyes, this assurance sure looks different to our eyes — it cannot help but make us suspicious.

Deeply.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.