

TALKING POINTS FOR "UNDER SCRUTINY" WITH JANE WALLACE

- + The term "hacking" in its modern context originated at MIT and is best described by Sherry Turkle in her book *The Second Self: Computers and the Human Spirit*. She herself notes the ready similarity between hackers in cyberspace and astronauts in outer space--hackers have "the right stuff"!
- + Cyber-space is a frontier, and like any frontier, those that are pioneers are destined to break new ground, to fall into crevices, to be run over by stampeding buffalo, in this case the Secret Service, or to be shot in the back by "vested interests" who are either completely ignorant of the realities of this frontier, or anxious to conceal those realities while they reap a profit from unsuspecting homesteaders.
- + Hackers are the "truth tellers" in a corrupt communications and computing environment--without hackers we would all be living in an electronic fools' paradise until the entire thing melted down around us.
- + As Kevin Kelly articulates so well in his new book, a network must nurture small failures in order to avoid catastrophic failures. Hackers are the vaccine, not the virus!
- + Thomas Jefferson was a hacker! He hacked the British Empire, he broke British laws, and because he did so we have a healthy and robust America that is a haven for the best intellects from around the world.
- + There is an arms race going on in cyberspace, and the U.S. is not playing. Worse, they are ignoring the very gladiators, the hackers, who could most easily establish the U.S. as a superpower in cyberspace.
- + The laws are out-of-date, and the bureaucracy of government is ignorant of the realities of cyber-space. Hackers are not breaking into well-built houses with locks--they are merely wandering across open fields. *The law cannot be a substitute for good engineering--security must come from solid engineering.*
- + It is impossible to establish corporate electronic security measures in a vacuum. Sound corporate security is unaffordable, unenforceable, and unachievable unless the Nation as a whole has a national information strategy which provides for a safe electronic working environment.

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