

King Hearings Peter Out

Michael Sean Winters | Mar. 18, 2011 Distinctly Catholic

Talking with a religion reporter for a major newspaper yesterday, we both voiced our surprise that the congressional hearings into the supposed radicalization of American Muslims held last week by Cong. Peter King had so little traction. I have drunk thin red wines with longer legs. Most of the commentary, in fact, focused on the emotional testimony of Cong. Keith Ellison, who was there to debunk King's charges. The lone representative of law enforcement at the hearings also failed to read from King's desired script, and commented upon the many ways the American Muslim community were helping law enforcement uncover any whiff of radicalization.

I wondered if I had missed something and did some searching and found [this article at TNR by Tiffany Stanley](#) [1] who reached the same conclusion: The hearings were a big yawn.

The fact that the hearings were so ineffectual is a good thing, but it does not detract from how pernicious their intention. Still, better to have evil be ineffectual than not.

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[1] <http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/85088/peter-king-hearings-muslims-terrorism>