

Rand Paul "Spanked" by Wash Times

Michael Sean Winters | Nov. 6, 2013 | Distinctly Catholic

[Politico is reporting](#) [1] that the conservative newspaper the Washington Times is suspending Rand Paul's columns on account of his evident plagiarizing. I find the responses from Sen. Paul's staff troubling - he is so busy, he has so many demands on his time. The idea that he cannot handle his current job's demands does not exactly recommend him for a promotion. But, there is also a bit of a sham going on here: Very few politicians write their own speeches or op-eds. When a newspaper publishes an op-ed from a Senator or Representative, they know that it was not written by that member of Congress but by a staff person. It is one thing to have staff check your work, another for you to check their's. I think newspapers should only publish a piece by a politician if they know that he or she wrote it themselves. Otherwise, while Sen. Paul's form of plagiarism is especially egregious, it is a difference in degree, not in kind from what most newspapers routinely publish.

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Links:

[1] <http://www.politico.com/blogs/media/2013/11/the-washington-times-suspends-rand-pauls-columns-176852.html?hp=17>