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### At rally, activists urge Corbett to limit agencies' monitoring

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A group of **activists** monitored by the state of Pennsylvania on Wednesday called on Gov.-elect Tom **Corbett** to prohibit state **agencies** from gathering information about people's political and religious beliefs.

About 20 people gathered outside City Hall for a **rally** on the proposal, which would allow an exception for criminal investigations stemming from evidence of illegal behavior.

"I don't think it's the job of the government **to spy** on organizations that pose no threat **to** the security of this country," said Charles Lane, a representative of the Lancaster Coalition for Peace and Justice, one of the groups investigated by the Institute on Terrorism Research and Response, which had a \$103,000 contract with Pennsylvania's Homeland Security Office **to help** monitor potential threats **to** the state's infrastructure.

A series of bulletins prepared by the Philadelphia institute showed it was reporting on citizen groups that posed no obvious threat **to** public safety, including student protesters and opponents of natural-gas drilling.

Homeland Security Director James Powers, who hired the institute, resigned last month amid the controversy.

**Corbett** said he was aware of the request but had not looked into it. "I don't think you need **to** issue an executive order **to** see that common sense is used."

On the issue of homeland security and **monitoring**, he said he read up on what transpired in the transition report prepared by the Rendell administration.

"I will deal with it as I see fit," he said. "I don't see issuing a whole lot of executive orders unless absolutely necessary."

Holding signs that read, "Dissent is patriotic," and "Don't spy on us," the protesters urged people **to** write legislators in Harrisburg for a full investigation into how and why information on them was collected and used.

Paul Hetznecker, a Philadelphia civil rights and criminal defense lawyer, said people must guard their First Amendment rights carefully, or governments will take them away.

"We give life **to** the First Amendment by raising the voice of dissent," he said.

Virginia Cody of Factoryville, Pa., said her name turned up in institute memos because she had opposed a type of gas drilling known as fracking.

"I want Mr. **Corbett**, Attorney General **Corbett**, **to** sign an executive order declaring cessation of the spying on all law-abiding citizens in the state," Cody told the crowd.

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