

THE KING/SCHUMER CHRISTIE/BOOKER SMACKDOWN

I confess I'm enjoying the spat developing between New York and New Jersey's top politicians over the NYPD's spying on New Jersey Muslims. First Christie dared to call Kelly arrogant.

"He's Ray Kelly, so what're you gonna do? I mean, he's all-knowing, all-seeing," Christie said.

"And I don't know all the details yet, but my concern is, you know, why can't you be, you know, communicating with the people here in New Jersey, with law enforcement here in New Jersey. Are we somehow not trustworthy?" said Christie.

[snip]

"This is New York Police Department. I know they think their jurisdiction is the world. Their jurisdiction is New York City. So if they're going to leave their jurisdiction and go to investigate a case in another jurisdiction, it could be dangerous," Christie said. "This is the way law enforcement people get hurt or killed, is when they're not cooperating with each other, not communicating with each other."

"I'm not saying they don't belong in New Jersey, but tell us! Share it with the appropriate law enforcement agency," Christie said. "My concern is this kind of obsession that the NYPD seems to have that they're the masters of the universe."

Then there's the spectacle of King defending Ray Kelly as if the latter is a shrinking violet, with neither access to the press nor taste for a

fight himself.

Rep. Peter King, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said Gov. Chris Christie crossed a line when he mocked Police Commissioner Ray Kelly as “all-knowing, all-seeing” and said the NYPD’s intelligence operation in Newark may have been “born out of arrogance.”

[snip]

“I just found it a real disappointment the way he was conducting himself, the way he was taking cheap shots at Ray Kelly,” King said.

Sure, aside from Booker, who seems genuinely concerned either with his actual constituents or appearing that way, this is a giant pissing contest between men defending their turf.

Part of me wonders why most of these men have reacted so strongly. Christie, after all, must have close ties to Newark’s FBI officers from his time as US Attorney. That seems to be what this dig is about:

“His main objection seems to be that he wasn’t ... brought in. But the fact is that he wasn’t governor. He was U.S. attorney. And I’m not aware of any major terror plots that he ever uncovered while he was U.S. attorney in New Jersey.”

(King forgets, of course, that the NYPD didn’t find any of the major terrorist attacks since 9/11—street vendors and the FBI did.)

Part of me wonders whether Kelly, channeling J. Edgar Hoover as he increasingly seems to be doing, has some dirt on King and Schumer to make cow them like this.

But the real sick part of my personality can’t help but visualize this ending in a giant wrestling match pitting King and Schumer against

Christie and Booker. In fact, I'm even thinking of taking bets.

Sorry about the abundance of brain bleach posts this morning folks—it must be the weather.