COX ON ROGERS: "LIKE HE WAS J. EDGAR HOOVER"

Since Carl Levin announced he would retire, I've been hoping to see Justin Amash take on Mike Rogers in a Republican primary. This National Journal article captures the dynamics of that possibility well (though may overestimate how much money Amash could raise).

But before I get into why I'd be so fascinated about such a race, check out how former Republican Attorney General Mike Cox describes Mike Rogers.

> If Rogers were to run, he would have to give up his chairmanship of the House Intelligence Committee, for which there are no term limits. Former GOP Michigan Attorney General **Mike Cox** downplayed that motivation, saying Rogers' ambition for higher office trumps his desire to make a meaningful influence in foreign policy. "If [Rogers] lost, he could make a lot of money in D.C. as a lobbyist," Cox said last week. "He's so full of [expletive] to begin with. He tells all these stories about being an FBI agent, and he was in the FBI for two years. Like he was **J. Edgar Hoover**."

"He's so full of shit to begin with."

This is the great hope of MI's GOP to take over Levin's seat.

Now, Gary Peters, who'll run on the Democratic side, is one of MI's rising Democratic stars. And as the article notes, he hails from Oakland County, which is critical not just because of the fundraising base there, but because it's the second largest county and pretty evenly split; Peters has a proven ability to win that critical swing county's votes.

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that if Amash ran (whether or not he won), I'd probably end up represented by a GOP neanderthal rather than Amash (because Democrats are unlikely to win the district in an off year, and because there are tons of up-and-coming neanderthal GOPers in the Grand Rapids area), I'd still really like to see a Rogers-Amash race.

That's because it'd serve as a nationally watched race between the GOP's rising libertarian wing and one of the GOP's most authoritarian leaders. Mike Rogers has championed CISPA and whatever other new surveillance efforts anyone wanted. Justin Amash led those few Republicans who opposed it. Amash even came out in favor of reading Dzhokhar Tsarnaev a Miranda warning this weekend.

In other words, in a battle between Rogers and Amash, civil liberties and the Constitution would be central.

Mike Cox was making fun of Rogers' self-promotion when he drew the analogy with J. Edgar (and there's an implicit respect for Hoover in his comment). But it's high time someone started making the analogy between the fear-mongering and surveillance Rogers and others embrace and Hoover's.