

Miller: You've said you're willing for Minnesotans to accept some Syrian refugees. Are there conditions on that welcome?

Governor Dayton: We have to monitor the situation very carefully and we will. We want to see if we can accommodate people who show up. We've had nine Syrian refugees re-settled in Minnesota this year. So, we're not one of the states that is a focal point of this.

But, this is the politics of fear. Just people preying, p-r-e-y, on it for their own political gain and I think it's really despicable that they are taking that action. People are understandably fearful with what's going on in the world right now. And to prey on those fears of people, legitimate fears, I think is really unconscionable.

The U.S. Government and our state government work around the clock to protect the people of this country from any kind of foreign terrorist attack. And taking nothing for granted, the Obama Administration has done that for the almost seven years that it's been in office. So, to say that the State Department or Homeland Security, or anyone else is lax in these efforts to assure the safety of Minnesotans and other Americans is just totally unfounded and terribly irresponsible.

Miller: What is wrong with some of these politicians raising the concerns that average Americans apparently have [about Syrian refugees]?

Governor Dayton: Well, I think they should raise the concerns. I will raise those concerns. Everybody is understandably fearful or at least highly concerned about after what happened in Paris. Could that happen anywhere? That's very legitimate.

But for politicians, for governors to say, I'm going to prevent somebody from coming into my state. First of all, someone can resettle somewhere else and come in to anyone's state. Unless we're going to guard our borders and check IDs of people who are driving into Minnesota or Wisconsin or anywhere else.

So, it's a lot puffery. And again, the underlying message is anybody who doesn't look like us or whose religion is different from us, or who's different from us is suspect. And you go back to the eras in this country, when in the 1950s; I'm a card carrying member of the communist party; or World War II the internment of Japanese-Americans. It brings out the worst instincts of people under fearful circumstances.

And public officials have a respectability to do everything they can to lead people away from that. And lead people to the recognition that this is something we are concerned about 24/7. The State Department and Homeland Security have detailed the unclassified part of their vetting procedure – it's elaborate, it's extensive. And I know, having been on the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security, there's far more than that's undertaken. So nobody takes anything for granted, but every effort is made. And people who are fleeing terrorism – families with children in their arms. To tell them they can't come into this country and have a future is un-American.

Miller: Do you think that Syrian refugees should be handled in any different way than refugees or immigrants from other places in the world?

Governor Dayton: I think there should be an enhanced level of vetting and security for Syrian refugees or others than come from places, which have been sources of terrorism. And where there's reason to undertake additional procedures. I know that's what the State Department and Department of Homeland Security are doing now with regards to Syrian refugees. The vetting process is extensive.

It's just not responsible for anybody to say that this country is not doing everything possible to accept people who are fleeing terrorism, but prevent foreign terrorists from entering this country without any knowledge or evidence to support that. As I said, it's really the worst kind of politics of fear that people are promoting for their own self-aggrandizement and own political advancement, and it's very very wrong.

[Caller expresses support for Governor's position]

Miller: Governor? What do you want to say to Laura?

You're absolutely right, Laura. And Secretary Kerry released a five page letter that he sent to all the governors over the weekend detailing, as you said, that it's a very very extensive vetting process and again, I understand that people are fearful for their protection and safety – in the sense that anything could happen anywhere – and terrorists use that fear to achieve their ends. And so we shouldn't have American politicians assisting in that kind of terroristic strategy.

MILLER: Yesterday, you called what's happening in north Minneapolis, quote, "a very very volatile situation," then we had the shootings last night. And I wonder if you think that law enforcement needs to re-think the way they're handling the protest, whether there needs to be more security there, and whether you have a role in determining some of that?

GOVERNOR DAYTON: Well, I don't have all the facts but based on what I know, I don't fault law enforcement at all for the terrible, terrible criminal act that occurred last night. In a protest situation, there are people milling around and up until now, thanks to the good Lord and thanks to the responsible people who have engaged in peaceful protest, nothing of this terrible nature occurred.

And for a couple of people to suddenly pull out of – I assume out of – their winter clothing guns and start to fire them – I don't think it's appropriate at this point based on what I know to fault anybody; and they should be apprehended and they should be brought to justice.

It does underscore how treacherous a situation it is when there are a lot of people milling around and I greatly appreciate Mr. Clark's brother, Mr. Eddie Sutton for making the statement that he did this morning that this is another reason for the termination of the public protests. But, it was a criminal act, it was a terrible criminal act, it was a cowardly criminal act, and I hope and believe the people will be found and brought to justice.

MILLER: I want to be clear about what you're saying; do you think it's time for the demonstrations and the protests to conclude?

GOVERNOR DAYTON: Well, I hope they will. Again, that's not my decision, but I think this underscores the treacherous nature of the significant number of people who are intermingling without any way of safeguarding those who are engaged in peaceful protest. Not any way, I misspoke there. Last night just underscores the vulnerability of peaceful citizens exercising their first amendment rights to some very treacherous criminal activity.

Miller: Yesterday, you watched the video of the shooting of Jamar Clark and you've said that it was inconclusive. Is it inconclusive because the camera view isn't wide enough or detailed enough of what happened or you can't actually see what's going on between the police officer and Jamar Clark?

Governor Dayton: If I understand your question correctly, the camera is focused on the back of the ambulance. That's the purpose of an ambulance having a camera. It's what the technicians in their procedures and the EMTs are utilizing. There's a brief glimpse of Mr. Clark and the police

officer encountering each other and then they disappear from the corner of the screen and nothing that happened thereafter is recorded. There's no audio so it's – there's nothing visible.

Miller: Governor, do you think—the federal government is here now to do the investigation—do you think whatever they conclude is going to be satisfying to the demonstrators, to Mr. Clark's family, to police officers?

Governor Dayton: First I'd say, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has impeccable integrity and independence and they were called in. And they're utilizing every forensic means at their disposal to obtain the facts and get evidence from both the Hennepin County Attorney and now the US Department of Justice. The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice is the highest civil rights enforcement authority in the country and the people who are there – starting with the Assistant U.S. Attorney General Vanita Gupta with whom I spoke with over the weekend – has a career of protecting the civil rights of Americans. And that's as high of an authority and as experienced of an investigative authority as there is, and I believe that this country has an impeccable, committed group of people to the civil rights of all Minnesotans as there could possibly be.