NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

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N.Y. reps split over Capitol bug-out

The Post called all members of the state's congressional delegation from the New York area to ask, "Do you agree with the decision by Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) and Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.) to close the House early because of anthrax?"

Felix Grucci (R-L.I.) — Didn't respond.

Steve Israel (D-L.I.) — No: "I would have preferred to have worked in Washington. I disagree."

Peter King (R-L.I.) — Yes: "The right thing to do is to listen to the police and health officials."

Carolyn McCarthy (D-L.I.) — Yes: "She felt like it was a good idea as a preventative measure," her spokeswoman said.

Gary Ackerman (D-Queens) — No: "It's ridiculous, if we're sending a message to the public to carry on business as usual, for us to pack and look like we're running down the Capitol steps."

Gregory Meeks (D-Queens) — Yes: "I want to continue to do the people's work, but I agree we should have adjourned because we didn't have any bills that were ripe to vote on and we didn't want to make our staffs feel uncomfortable."

Joseph Crowley (D-Queens) — Yes: "This is the prudent, cautious way to do it. His No. 1 concern is the health of the staff," a spokesman said.

Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan) — Yes: "It's one day. It's not really that big of a deal," his spokesman said.

Anthony Weiner (D-Brooklyn and Queens) — Yes: "I trust their judgment. They acted on the best information they had."

Edolphus Towns (D-Brooklyn) — Yes: "They need to take safety measures to sweep all the buildings so that we can get back to work," a spokeswoman said.

Major Owens (D-Brooklyn) — No: "We're giving in to terrorist actions," a spokeswoman said.

Nydia Velazquez (D-Brooklyn and Manhattan) — Didn't respond.

Vito Fossella (R-Staten Island) — Didn't respond.

Carolyn Maloney (D-Manhattan) — No: "Hindsight is always easier, but it appears it is totally restricted to that one particular office."

Charles Rangel (D-Harlem) — Wouldn't answer "yes" or "no" but said, "I don't want to be critical of the decision of the people who had more information than I did."

Jose Serrano (D-Bronx) — Yes. "When you're dealing with something so new and in the area of the unknown, we have a responsibility to the staff and to the visitors to take every precaution."

Eliot Engel (D-Bronx) — No. "It was the wrong decision. It was precipitous, it was done in haste."

Nita Lowey (D-Westchester) — Yes: "She believes it was a prudent, cautionary measure," her spokeswoman said.

Sue Kelly (R-North Westchester) — Yes: "It's easy for headline writers to second-guess the decision from their safe little offices in Midtown," her spokesman, Rob Ostrander, said.

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