



December 7, 2004

**HARMAN CELEBRATES PASSAGE OF INTELLIGENCE
BILL
-- Credits 9-11 Families as Moral Force Behind Reform**

--

WASHINGTON - Representative Jane Harman (D-CA), Ranking Member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, delivered the following statement today:

"This day, December 7, is 'a date which will live in infamy.' So was September 11, 2001.

"Pearl Harbor and 9/11 were the two most tragic hours since America became a nation.

"President Roosevelt launched a clear-eyed investigation of the intelligence lapses leading to Pearl Harbor, and since 9/11, we have worked hard to understand why critical intelligence about the plans, capabilities, and whereabouts of the 19 hijackers fell through the cracks.

"Our intelligence system is broken. We have 15 intelligence agencies with different rules, cultures, and databases. Our intelligence community operates on a 1947 business model designed to defeat the Soviet Union, which occurred in 1989. Fifteen years later, the enemy is digital, but our organizational structure remains analog.

"This long-overdue legislation will modernize our capabilities, integrate our intelligence collection and analysis efforts, unify our counter-terrorist efforts, and promote information-sharing. It will promote the same 'jointness' in intelligence that has been the hallmark of our military's success since the Goldwater-Nichols Act in 1986.

"The new Director of National Intelligence will oversee and manage all of the government's intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities. He (or she) will develop the budgets for the agencies, manage the execution of the money, and manage and direct the tasking of intelligence functions. The new National Counterterrorism Center will bring all counter-terrorism operations under one roof, so agencies can share information in real time about the enemy's plans and whereabouts.

"The bill also promotes a trusted Information Sharing Environment so that we move from a 'need to know' culture to a 'need to share' culture.

"This bill also establishes a privacy and civil liberties board that can obtain information from other government agencies and will oversee the policies of our intelligence agencies. In consolidating power under the DNI, we seek transparency and accountability - and not to restrict the ability of government officials to share information lawfully with other agencies, Congress, or the public.

"The bill contains tough new immigration and law enforcement measures to bolster border security and make it easier to crack down on terrorists. Let me be clear: I am deeply concerned about illegal immigration, and I look forward to debating this issue in the next Congress. But I am also the daughter of an immigrant from Nazi Germany. It's easy to scapegoat and target immigrants, and I am proud we resisted that urge.

"The ideas in this legislation have deep bipartisan parentage. They have been studied for nearly 50 years and have been supported by leaders of both parties. The creation of a DNI was the number one recommendation of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Joint Inquiry on which I served. It was the subject of HR 4104, introduced by all nine Democratic members of the House Intelligence Committee on April 1, 2004. And it was the lead recommendation of the 9 men and 1 woman of the 9/11 Commission - ably led by Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton - who put aside party labels and came together around the common-sense proposals we endorse today.

"I can't close without thanking those who made this bill possible. First, the 9/11 families. You were the moral force beneath our wings. Your loved ones are holding a special spot in heaven for you and for all you did for the safety of our country.

"Conference Committee Chair Pete Hoekstra, Senators Susan Collins and Joe Lieberman - we have been at this nearly non-stop for nearly three months, and we hung together to do the right thing. I also thank the President and the Speaker for the time they invested in pushing for this legislation.

"And finally, to the men and women who serve in our intelligence agencies and who wear the uniform ... many of whom are on the front-lines at this hour risking their lives for our freedom. This legislation is designed to give you the capabilities you deserve and need to win the war on terrorism. You have our praise, our admiration, and our full support.

"December 7 will always remind us of the vulnerability of our homeland, but once we pass this bill, it will also stand for our resolve to make our nation safer. And it is a fitting birthday tribute to Senator Collins."