

**STATEMENT BY
CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN, RANKING MEMBER
HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

**9-11 Commission Recommendations: Counterterrorism Analysis and
Collection – The Requirement for Imagination and Creativity**

August 4, 2004

I had hoped that we could come here today to consider legislation to fix the problems that we all know exist.

That is what others in Congress are doing – and so should we.

Two weeks ago, the Senate Intelligence Committee held hearings on legislation to create a national intelligence director.

Last Friday, the Senate Government Affairs Committee held a hearing to consider the specific proposals of the 9/11 Commission. Yesterday, they held another hearing, as did the House Committee on Government Reform.

Two days ago, the President finally asked Congress to create a national intelligence director.

Others are moving forward, Mr. Chairman, but this Committee appears to be moving in reverse.

Today's hearing is entitled "the lack of imagination and creativity." Maybe I lack imagination and creativity, but I cannot figure out why we aren't marking up two bills pending in this Committee – HR 4104, introduced on April 1 by nine members of the Committee, and the Chairman's bill, HR 4584, introduced on June 16.

Our Committee has the hearing record and expertise needed to write the bill that becomes law. So why aren't we moving forward?

As we all know, our intelligence community was created in 1947 to fight an enemy that no longer exists. Put another way, we are using a 1947 business model to confront a 21st Century threat.

Our 15 intelligence agencies operate with different rules, cultures, and databases. They do not share information, and they do not coordinate their efforts to collect, analyze, and disseminate intelligence.

Our intelligence agencies missed opportunities to penetrate the 9/11 plot. We lost track of the 9/11 hijackers because our intelligence agencies did not work well together. And we did not connect the dots about possible terrorists training at U.S. flight schools in the months before 9/11 because our intelligence agencies did not work together.

The bipartisan Congressional Joint Inquiry into 9/11, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, Brent Scowcroft, Senators Dianne Feinstein, Bob Graham, Trent Lott, Olympia Snowe, Jay Rockefeller, Barbara Mikulski, Ron Wyden, and many others agree: we need a single head of the entire intelligence community who has true budgetary and management authority to integrate all of our intelligence capabilities.

Congress can do this. Twenty years ago, it did. It passed Goldwater-Nichols despite a serious threat of presidential veto and over the opposition of the Armed Forces. It was bipartisan Congressional leadership at its best.

On July 22, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, ably led by Governor Tom Kean and Congressman Lee Hamilton, challenged us to adopt Goldwater-Nichols for the Intelligence Community – and, I believe, we ignore their recommendations at our peril.

Mr. Chairman, it has been nearly three years since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 ... Three years that the families of the victims have had to wait for action ... Three years of bipartisan panels and commission, hearings, and reports. It is now time to act.

The terrorists are not waiting. They are not waiting until after our election to plot their attacks against us. And they are not going to check our party registration before they launch those attacks against us.

The time for action is now. And I strongly urge you, Mr. Chairman, to let us debate, mark up, and vote on real legislation that will make our country safer.

We are behind the curve, and we owe it to the 9/11 families and the country to catch up.