

OPENING STATEMENT

Ranking Member Jim Himes

February 7, 2025

I'd like to join Chairman Crawford in extending a warm welcome to the new Members of the Committee, or in the case of Mr. Quigley, a welcome back.

There is a lot to learn when you join HPSCI, but the trust that's been placed in you requires you to dedicate the time and attention this Committee demands, while knowing that most of what we work on can't be discussed outside these spaces. I'm looking forward to working closely with Chairman Crawford and all Members of the Committee in the 119th Congress.

To briefly touch on a few of my priorities, I hope to continue to improve the IC's ability to utilize cutting edge technologies in its mission. Over the last several years, HPSCI has led a bipartisan effort to create new authorities and organizations within the IC to further that mission, including the creation of an IC Innovation Unit.

Second, I want to voice my appreciation to Chairman Crawford for creating an Open Source Subcommittee. I strongly believe we are leaving critical intelligence on the table by under-investing in and under-utilizing open-source intelligence. In our interconnected world, OSINT can often give us the first and often the best insights into what is happening.

Serving on this Committee provides us an unparalleled opportunity to meet with the men and women of the IC, at home and abroad. At the CIA, NSA, FBI, ODNI, DIA and beyond, I am constantly impressed by their skill, dedication, and professionalism. Many of them have sacrificed a great deal to serve their nation because they believe in the mission, knowing that only a select few will ever know what they worked on. Our job is to oversee the IC, but we shouldn't lose sight of the debt we owe to Americans who have chosen to serve their country.

Finally, just a personal thought, this Committee has a long tradition of nonpartisanship, not necessarily bipartisanship, but nonpartisanship. It has also undergone a period of time when it was badly broken by the impeachment investigation. We all have our thoughts on that but what I can tell you is that during that period Congressional oversight of the IC suffered.

Our job is very simply to protect the civil liberties of the American people and to make sure that the IC is the premiere intelligence service in the world. That's it. Partisanship on either side makes no sense in this room. What we say can't get reported or put on the news.

That's not to say there aren't going to be disagreements. Oversight is uncomfortable. But we need to make sure that we keep up the long tradition of nonpartisanship in this committee. I have asked my staff and my esteemed colleagues to have a presumption of nonpartisanship, to build those personal relationships and trust that allow for the management of conflict, and to make sure that the disagreements that will inevitably happen are made in professional and constructive ways. Our common cause is really important, and I know that the Chairman is also a believer in

these values. I've known him for a while now and I just want to put this on the table because the Committee is really a refuge from some of the polarization that's out there, which is good because our mission is so important.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.