

The FBI's 30-year retrospective report concluded with the following—as it turned out false—assurance in 1999:

While the threat is formidable, the U.S. intelligence and law enforcement community have developed an effective and highly integrated response to the [counter-terrorism threat] . . . Increasingly, the FBI's efforts involve the assistance and cooperation of other intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The threats of the new Millennium require such an integrated and aggressive response.

Mr. President, do you see my point? Good work has been done by good men and women, experts in this field, reports on what we need to do in order to do a better job—in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 and 2000 and 2001. All this good work by the commissions, the GAO, the FBI, and others has not resulted in us doing anything about it.

Now we are going to have one more commission report. These are the commission reports on my desk that have been done already since 1995—a pretty good stack. It is very interesting reading.

The GAO report here, just on the top, “Combating Terrorism, FBI'S Use of Federal Funds for Counter-terrorism and Related Activities”—there is just simply a plethora of counter-terrorism reports available making thousands of recommendations. These reports did not look at the specific events that led up to 9/11 and what happened and what

we have learned from that, but they did look at what we should have been doing to prevent it.

I think, unfortunately, this commission amendment is probably going to be agreed to, but I wanted to raise my concerns about the way the commission amendment is drafted, the way the commission would be created, the cost that would be involved, and the likelihood that at the end of the day its findings will meet the fate of those from so many commissions before it.

As to money, I am sure they are starting off way low. They will be back asking for an increase in money within 3 to 6 months. I have already experienced that, too. In fact, one of the commissions I referred to earlier came back wanting more money, they wanted a little bit more, they came back yet a second time but I said: No. Wrap it up.

So I just do not think this is a wise thing to do. I think we ought to do it, or I think the administration ought to do it, but somebody needs to grab hold of this and do it the right way. Maybe the joint intelligence committee can still give us what we need in order to decide if we need more laws or if we need more reform within the intelligence community. But this commission is not going to bring us a lot more. It may get a few big headlines. It is going to cost a lot more money. Yet, I doubt if much will come out of it.

By the way, probably the earliest we will get anything out of it specifically would be 18 months from now. Goodness gracious, if we need to take action on what we have learned and what we know, are we going to wait for 18 months to see this commission report before we act? By the time this commission acts, I fervently hope that Congress will already have done everything that needs to be done as a result of the events of 9/11.

I thank the Chair for showing patience, and the staff here. I do not want to keep them too long. But I was afraid I would not get an opportunity to raise these questions tomorrow before we go to the vote. Maybe there will be a stampede to just get this done, but, boy, we are going to need to do a lot of work before we enact it into law.

I believe we are ready to complete our work for the day. I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:25 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:25 tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, 2002, at 9:25 a.m.