



Straight To The Point:

President Bush: "Without The Cooperation Of The Private Sector, We Cannot Protect Our Country From Terrorist Attack"

During Press Conference, President Bush Calls On Congress To Pass Bipartisan Senate Foreign Surveillance Bill, Fund Our Troops In Iraq, Pass Responsible Housing Reform, And Continue PEPFAR Funding

"Congress understood last year that FISA did not give our intelligence professionals the tools they needed to keep us safe. The Senate understands that the FISA ... didn't give us the tools needed to protect America. The bipartisan bill it passed provides those tools our intelligence professionals need. Yet the House's failure to pass this law raises the risk of reopening a gap in our intelligence gathering, and that is dangerous."

– President George W. Bush, 2/28/08

"Members Should ... Act On A Very Urgent Priority ... To Pass Legislation Our Intelligence Officials Need To Quickly And Effectively Monitor Terrorist Communications"

President Bush: "[T]he American people expect our Congress to give the professionals the tools they need to listen to foreigners who may be calling into the United States with information that could cause us great harm." "At issue is a dispute over whether telecommunications companies should be subjected to class-action lawsuits because they are believed to have helped defend America after the attacks of 9/11. Allowing these lawsuits to proceed would be unfair. ... Republicans and Democrats in the United States Senate came together and passed a good bill, protecting private companies from these abusive lawsuits. And Republicans and Democrats in the House stand ready to pass the Senate bill, if House leaders would only stop blocking an up-or-down vote and let the majority in the House prevail." (President George W. Bush, Press Conference, The White House, 2/28/08)

- **"Without the cooperation of the private sector, we cannot protect our country from terrorist attack."** "Allowing these lawsuits to proceed could make it harder to track the terrorists, because private companies besieged by and fearful of lawsuits would be less willing to help us quickly get the information we need."
- **"You cannot expect phone companies to participate if they feel like they're going to be sued."** "The government said to those ... alleged to have helped us that it is in our national interests and it's legal. It's in our national interests because we want to know who's calling who from overseas into America. ... And now, all of a sudden, plaintiffs' attorneys, class-action

plaintiff's attorneys ... I suspect they see, you know, a financial gravy train – are trying to sue these companies. First, it's unfair. ... And secondly, these lawsuits create doubts amongst those ... whose help we need."

- **"Some in the Congress have said we have nothing to worry about, because if we lose the cooperation of the private sector, we can use the old FISA law. They're wrong."**
"FISA was out of date. It did not allow us to track foreign terrorists on foreign soil quickly and effectively. And that is why a dangerous intelligence gap opened up last year."

Congress Needs To "Fully Fund The Troops" In Iraq

President Bush: "Congress does need to act when it comes to Iraq. What they need to do is stand by our brave men and women in uniform and fully fund the troops." "Unfortunately, this week the Senate debated yet another bill that threatens to cut off funding and tie the hands of our commanders in Iraq."

- **"It's interesting that many of the same people who once accused me of refusing to acknowledge setbacks in Iraq now are the ones who are refusing to acknowledge progress in Iraq."** "Since the surge began, high-profile terrorist attacks are down, civilian deaths are down, sectarian killings are down, and our own casualties are down. U.S. and Iraqi forces have captured or killed thousands of extremists, including hundreds of key al Qaeda operatives and leaders."
- **"It seems that no matter what happens in Iraq opponents to the war have one answer: Retreat."** "If we followed their advice a year ago, Iraq would be a far different and more dangerous place than it is today."

"I Believe That Our Economy Has Got The Fundamentals In Place For Us To ... Continue Growing More Robustly"

President Bush: "I don't think we're headed to recession, but no question we're in a slowdown. And that's why we acted, and acted strongly, with over \$150 billion worth of pro-growth economic incentives..." This is "mainly money going into the hands of our consumers. And some money going to incent businesses to invest, which will create jobs."

- **"[T]he Senate is considering legislation that would do more to bail out lenders and speculators than to help American families keep their homes."** "The Senate bill would actually prolong the time it takes for the housing market to adjust and recover and it would lead to higher interest rates. This would be unfair to the millions of homeowners who make the hard choices every month to pay their mortgage on time and it would be unfair to future home buyers."
- **"Congress should move ahead with responsible legislation to modernize the Federal Housing Administration and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac."**

It Is Important For "Our Nation To Remain Generous And Compassionate When It Comes To Helping People Overseas"

President Bush: "[T]he emergency plan for AIDS relief is saving lives." "I ... urged Congress to reauthorize the Emergency Plan and increase our commitment, and they did. They approved a good, bipartisan bill, that maintains the principles that have made this program effective. ... [O]ur hope is now the House will act quickly and send the bill reauthorizing PEPFAR to the Senate, and I'd like to sign it into law as quickly as possible."

President Bush: "I just remind people that the decisions of the U.S. President to have discussions with certain international figures can be extremely counterproductive." "I made a decision ... to keep saying to the Cuban people, we stand with you; we will not sit down with your leaders that imprison your people because of what they believe; we will keep an embargo on you; we do want you to have money from people here in the homeland, but we will stay insistent upon this policy until you begin to get free."