

noted the fact that in Israel it is a private company that handles the security at the airport with certification by the Government and supervision by the Government, as is the case in many European capitals. I don't know if we can safely move in our own minds from what we see today with these same companies to a model using those companies in a different context.

When I asked Secretary Mineta last week to describe for me how this might work, the details were still forthcoming. That left me a little bit cold. Many of my colleagues share the belief that the safest way to address this, as we do in the bill, is to say that we will federalize the security and safety at airports. This bill goes beyond the screening station and talks about the responsibility under this bill. Let me quote from it on the security operations:

The administrator shall establish and enforce rules to improve the fiscal security of air traffic control facilities, parked aircraft, aircraft servicing equipment, aircraft supplies, automobile parking facilities, access and transition areas at airports served by other means of ground or water transportation.

The important thing is that this bill goes far beyond the screening stations at the airports. I believe if we are going to maintain safety at airports and on our airplanes, it has to be a secure environment. That means we are not only conscious and sensitive to what passengers bring onto airplanes but every single person who has contact with an airplane. A caterer, a clean-up crew, refueling personnel, someone who is a mechanic coming on board, or baggage handlers, all of them have to be supervised to make certain that those airplanes are secure. This bill does it. It does it through federalization.

I think we should view the safety of our airports and airplanes as matters of national security. After September 11, we can do no less.

I hope we enact this legislation and do it very quickly so that we can have in place a system that will help to restore confidence in the flying public.

I am happy to report in my own personal experience more and more people are returning to airports. I am glad that is the case.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mr. DURBIN. As a member of the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees, we have had a number of requests from the administration for new authority to collect information to fight terrorism. You will find that the vast majority of requests by the administration will be honored in the bill we will consider this week or next.

We will say to FBI and the CIA, other law enforcement agencies: Here are new tools for you to fight terrorism.

We should give to it them because we need to provide them what is necessary

to protect our Nation. Certainly we need to keep our laws up to pace with the changes in technology so that when communications are moving by e-mail or through the use of cell telephones, we give to law enforcement the authority and the opportunity to make certain they have access to them.

I am concerned, as are many on the Judiciary Committee, that it isn't just a question of the new authority to collect information but a more fundamental question: Do these agencies of law enforcement have the infrastructure and the capacity to collect, process, evaluate, and distribute this information?

It was only a few weeks ago that the Senate Judiciary Committee had its first oversight hearing in 20 years on the FBI.

The information that came to us suggests that FBI computer capabilities are archaic, that no successful business in America could operate with the computers we have given to the premier law enforcement agency in America. Is there any doubt in anyone's mind that computer capability is as important, if not more important, than additional authorization in the law to collect information?

Things are being done. A man by the name of Bob Dies left the IBM Corporation and came to the Department of Justice to modernize their computer systems. I trust him. I believe he has a good mind. He can help us out of this terrible situation into modern computer technology.

When I sat down with Mr. Dies yesterday and asked him the problems he ran into, he gave me an example. We know there is software available that would allow us to see the coordinates of any location in America, cross streets in the city of Boston or the city of Chicago, and then with this software, with concentric circles, see all of the important surrounding structures, the buildings, the hospitals, whether there is any type of nuclear facilities or electric substations, all within that region. Think of how valuable that is when we are fighting terrorism.

If they receive a notice at the FBI that there has been an explosion at a certain location, by using this software they can immediately see before them all of the potential targets and all of the worrisome areas around that explosion. That seems to be an obvious tool. Wouldn't you assume the FBI already had it? They don't. They don't have access to it because when Mr. Dies said he wanted to buy this software for the FBI—and they were excited about receiving it—he was told: First you have to draw up, under Federal procurement laws, a request with specific elements in it as to what you want in this software, and then we have to have it put out for bid. We think in about a year we can get it for you.

The average American can go right now and buy the software off the shelf.

It is absolutely unforgivable that that basic tool and so many others are being denied to the FBI and other law enforcement agencies because of the bureaucratic mess we have in procurement in this Nation.

I am working at this moment on legislation that will allow an exception to our procurement laws in areas of national need and national emergency. We should have a certification process that will allow us to step back from this morass of bureaucracy and get to the point of bringing modern computers into the FBI so that all the names and all the tips and all the information collected can be processed, formulated, evaluated, and distributed so that the names of suspects can be given to the Federal Aviation Administration and, in turn, given to all of the airlines so that they can do their job when people apply for a ticket.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). The time for morning business has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I hope that during the course of considering antiterrorism legislation we don't stop short of giving new authority to collect information but also give to the FBI, CIA, and other Federal law enforcement agencies the infrastructure to use that information. We need to create an extraordinary process for extraordinary times.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business and, after I have completed, Senator TORRICELLI be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROBLEMS WITH THE FBI

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Illinois for his comments. He could not be more correct about the problems with the FBI. In fact, the FBI had a lot of information regarding the potential of the events on September 11 4 and 5 years ago, I have learned, in certain compartments. Regrettably, just because of the compartmentalization and the process, that information was never adequately followed up on, as I think we will learn over the course of the next few months. We regret that.

There needs to be an enormous amount of work done in the coordination of the processing of information between the CIA and the FBI. The FBI, obviously, has been much more focused on prosecuting crimes after they happen and not necessarily on taking information and evaluating it in the context of a crime that may happen. The