

Does it protect us for all time from terrorism? Of course it does not. As I said earlier, I suspect we had information prior to September 11 in our files at the Justice Department that might have led to the apprehension and the stopping of the terrorists. That was information and intelligence that was acquired properly under the current laws. Will this protect us by itself? No. Will it give us some tools we don't have? Yes. This can be done in such a way that we ask ourselves, are we willing to try some of this for a while? Put constitutional limitations.

I think the distinguished Senator from Mississippi knows I am very truthful when I say I will have some very serious and, I would hope, bipartisan oversight hearings of abuse of the law as we go along. This is not a liberal or conservative piece of legislation. We have liberals and conservatives and moderates who have areas of concerns. We all do because we protect and respect our privacy. I come from a State where privacy is paramount to everybody. It is one thing that unites every one of us, no matter our political background.

But we cannot tell what is going to be the final bill until we consider it. We have to pass something out of the Senate. The House has to pass something. They have been working extraordinarily hard, Madam President, both Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CONYERS. Why not see what we can come up with? The committee of conference will be the final package. If I don't like the final package, I will be the first to vote against it. But I suspect we will come up with something. We will probably have some very late nights that will be worthwhile.

I thank my friend from Mississippi and my friend from South Dakota for trying to bring this bill up. I will stand ready. I don't have to leave at 3 o'clock anymore this week to be here. I am here. Although I might say, if anybody could know how absolutely beautiful it is in Vermont at this time of year, with the best foliage we have had in 25 years, maybe we should move the Senate up there. It depends on the good graces of my friend from Mississippi.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. I thank Senator LEAHY for his work. We have clearly come up with a superior bill to the one being moved in the House, but the House is also moving forward. I know Senator SMITH of New Hampshire has an amendment he wanted to offer, too. Every Senator has the right to object. We should not be critical of a Senator exercising that right.

But I think there is urgency on this legislation. I hope, I say to Senator LEAHY, we will continue to work to see if we can clear this bill and get it considered tomorrow. If we don't, there is a danger that the aviation security bill

will tangle up the rest of the week and we might not be able to get to this bill until next week.

I think the American people have appreciated the way we have worked together, shoulder to shoulder, regardless of party. We are all feeling a great need to pull together with patriotism while protecting fundamental rights. I hope we can continue to do that. We will be glad to work with Senators LEAHY and DASCHLE to see that happens.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BROWNBACK pertaining to the introduction of S. 1521 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BROWNBACK. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### THE UNITING AND STRENGTHENING AMERICA ACT OF 2001

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last Thursday, October 4, I was pleased to introduce with the Majority Leader, Senator DASCHLE, and the Chairmen of the Banking and Intelligence Committees, as well as the Minority Leader, Senator LOTT, and Senator HATCH and Senator SHELBY, the United and Strengthening America, or USA Act. This is not the bill that I, or any of the sponsors, would have written if compromise was unnecessary. Nor is the bill the administration initially proposed and the Attorney General delivered to us on September 19, at a meeting in the Capitol.

We were able to refine and supplement the administration's original proposal in a number of ways. The administration accepted a number of the practical steps I had originally proposed on September 19 to improve our security on the Northern Border, assist our Federal, State and local law enforcement officers and provide compensation to the victims of terrorist acts and to the public safety officers who gave their lives to protect ours. This USA Act also provides important

checks on the proposed expansion of government powers that were not contained in the Attorney General's initial proposal.

In negotiations with the administration, I have done my best to strike a reasonable balance between the need to address the threat of terrorism, which we all keenly feel at the present time, and the need to protect our constitutional freedoms. Despite my misgivings, I have acquiesced in some of the administration's proposals because it is important to preserve national unity in this time of crisis and to move the legislative process forward.

The result of our labors still leaves room for improvement. Even after the Senate passes judgment on this bill, the debate will not be finished. We will have to consider the important judgments made by the House Judiciary Committee in the version of the legislation making its way through the House. Moreover, I predict that some of these provisions will face difficult tests in the courts and that we in Congress will have to revisit these issues at some time in the future when, as we all devoutly hope, the present crisis has passed. I also intend as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee to exercise careful oversight of how the Department of Justice, the FBI and other executive branch agencies are using the newly-expanded powers that this bill will give them.

The negotiations on this bill have not been easy. Within days of the September 11 attacks, I instructed my staff to begin work on legislation to address security needs on the Northern Border, the needs of victims and State and local law enforcement, and criminal law improvements. A week after the attack, on September 19, the Attorney General and I exchanged the outlines of the legislative proposals and pledged to work together towards our shared goal of putting tools in the hands of law enforcement that would help prevent another terrorist attack.

Let me be clear: No one can guarantee that Americans will be free from the threat of future terrorist attacks, and to suggest that this legislation—or any legislation—would or could provide such a guarantee would be a false promise. I will not engage in such false promises, and those in the administration who make such assertions do a disservice to the American people.

I have also heard claims that if certain powers had been previously authorized by the Congress, we could somehow have prevented the September 11 attacks. Given this rhetoric it may be instructive to review efforts that were made a few years ago in the Senate to provide law enforcement with greater tools to conduct surveillance of terrorists and terrorist organizations. In May 1995, Senator LIEBERMAN offered an amendment to the bill that became the Antiterrorism