

People may have the shadow of suspicion cast over them by calling a suspected terrorist. Guilt by association will take us back to the dark days of the baseless inflammatory accusations made by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

H.R. 2975 gives the Immigration and Naturalization Service unchecked ability to detain aliens for up to seven days without charges. If the Attorney General continues to detain an individual after seven days, the bill limits the suspect's ability to appeal their detention.

We do not need to expand existing powers the government has used to detain 698 people during its terrorist investigations. At least 165 people have been held for violating immigration laws and can be detained indefinitely if the government begins deportation proceedings. The government does not even need to prove that they are suspects. Many are detained merely because they are material witnesses.

The bill H.R. 2975 allows grand jury and other sensitive information to be shared with other agencies. It will allow law enforcement and intelligence agencies to share information without a court order. Absent judicial oversight, a key element that prevents significant abuses of power by our law enforcement agencies is removed.

Under H.R. 2975, the government will define "federal terrorism offense" as the intent to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct. This unclear definition may include groups such as Green Peace along with the terrorists.

These measures will take us back to the time when the FBI and CIA investigated citizens such as Martin Luther King and his associates simply because they were deemed a threat to the nation.

Does anyone want to live in a country where you must hide your thoughts and avoid associations for fear of becoming tainted as a terrorist sympathizer?

We must not allow the terrorists to scare us into destroying our cherished values and rights.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the voices of moderation and reason. Do not toss away our sacred civil liberties.

Vote "No" on H.R. 2975 to protect the constitutional principles that have protected the citizens of this nation for more than 200 years.

PATRIOT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to vehemently oppose H.R. 3081, the Anti-Terrorism bill. In this time of national emergency, Congress must work to provide law enforcement with the necessary capabilities to fight terrorists in the 21st century. However, Congress must also remember that we are dealing with very precious civil liberties that we must not trample.

Today, Congress is considering greatly expanding the power of the federal government

to access information and listen to the conversations of people in the United States. We are considering providing greater authority for law enforcement to tap phone lines, to track email and internet addresses, and to swap sensitive information. Issues with this magnitude require cautious consideration with ample time to ponder the consequences.

After careful deliberation, House Judiciary Committee on October 11, 2001 passed H.R. 2975, the "Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Implement and Obstruct Terrorism (PATRIOT) Act." In fact, the committee recognized the importance of the subject matter and the potential consequences of the bill and passed H.R. 2975 unanimously. This bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Judiciary Committee and members of the full House.

However, in an end run around bipartisanship and the committee process, the House majority leadership brought a different and controversial bill to the floor without allowing time for committee consideration and without even giving Members time to figure out what the bill does. Actually, this new bill was being written at the same time that the House was supposed to be debating the bipartisan PATRIOT Act.

The new 187-page bill contained some very distressing provisions. Under current law, search warrants must include very specific information including what is to be searched, who must cooperate, and who is the target of the search. A provision in the new bill would allow federal investigators to obtain search warrants without specifically naming each person who is involved. Another provision would allow federal authorities to obtain information like credit card numbers and bank account numbers with a subpoena, not a court order, as is the case under current law. Also, many of the provisions that expand the government's search and surveillance powers would not allow Congress to review the new powers until 2006.

Yet, instead of bringing up a bipartisan bill that has worked its way through the committee process, the House Majority hastily brought a very large and complicated bill to the floor that could have serious consequences for the liberties of the American public. Congress must update its anti-terrorism laws for the 21st century, however, we must not sacrifice our civil liberties in a rush to vote on potentially dangerous legislation that has not been adequately reviewed by lawmakers.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. on this great day, the 12th of October, 2001.

The Lithuanian American Community celebrates Lithuanian heritage and provides educational, cultural, and social services to its

membership. Founded in 1951, LAC, Inc. has kept Lithuanian heritage and religious traditions alive in America through its network of Lithuanian Heritage and Language Schools, which provide classes to Lithuanian Americans of all ages.

In the United States today, there are approximately 800,000 people of Lithuanian descent. LAC, Inc. offers a variety of services to Lithuanian Americans. The Human Services Council of the Lithuanian American Community provides legal aid, medical assistance, and other services to Lithuanian Americans across the country.

This organization educates the general public about Lithuanian heritage and seeks to spread their rich culture. The Lithuanian American Community sponsors events such as folk dances, art and science symposiums, and theater festivals.

The Lithuanian American Community has long remained focused on sharing their cultural history through events open to the public, and educating other citizens of their rich and deep culture. They have done an excellent job of supporting cultural interaction between the United States and Lithuania.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Lithuanian American Community, a great organization that has provided support for Lithuanian Americans, and enriched Cleveland with the contribution of their culture and heritage.

TRIBUTE TO HON. ROBERT A. CONTIGUGLIA

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to serving our nation, the 25th District of New York, Cayuga County, and the city of Auburn. From the day he enlisted in the U.S. Army, until today, as he steps down as Judge of Cayuga County Surrogate Court, he has exemplified nothing but dedication to our country and local community. I am honored to congratulate and thank the Honorable Robert A. Contiguglia for his ongoing support and devotion to our community.

Throughout his distinguished career, Judge Contiguglia has embraced several leadership roles with spirit and loyalty. He has served as Chairman of the city of Auburn Zoning Board, Cayuga County Supervisor, Chairman of Cayuga County Legislature, Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York. He has been an attorney for 45 years and practiced law with his father Anthony J. and brother Louis.

Today we celebrate Judge Contiguglia's lifetime of achievements to express our gratitude for his 23 years of service on the Cayuga County Surrogate Court bench. On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I am honored to congratulate Judge Contiguglia for his well-deserved retirement from public life, and thank him for his years of service to Central New York. We wish him and his family the very best.