



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

THE STATE OF DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE REFORM

REMARKS BY:

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MR. MICHAEL ALLEN: Hello, I'm Michael Allen of the Bipartisan Policy Center. The BPC is a think tank founded by former Senate majority leaders Dole, Daschle, Mitchell, and Baker to promote bipartisan solutions where possible to the nation's problems.

I am the project director of the National Security Preparedness Group, which is co-chaired by Congressman Lee Hamilton, former Governor Tom Kean, the former chairman and vice chairman of the 9/11 Commission. The mission of our group is to promote continued implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations and to study additional national security issues.

I'd like to introduce Congressman Lee Hamilton, who will introduce Director Clapper. (Applause.)

REP. LEE HAMILTON: Good morning to all of you. Thank you very much for coming. We're delighted to have you here. I think we're going to have a very productive program in the following hours. I want to thank Michael for all of the work that he's done in getting all of us together this morning and of course the Bipartisan Policy Center for their sponsorship.

Tom Kean and I welcome you to the conference on domestic intelligence, latest in a series to bring attention to the state – of state to the intelligence community. We are very pleased to have a very distinguished group of panelists and speakers this morning. Before introducing Director Clapper, let me just take a quick moment to mention the National Security Preparedness Group.

As Michael indicated, our mission is to bring continued focus on the implementation of 9/11 Commission's recommendations, to study and report on other national security issues. We're delighted to have the executive director of that national commission on 9/11, Phil Zelikow here with us this morning, good to see him after a few years not seeing him.

Five years ago, the 9/11 Commission found that the intelligence community needed to operate more as an integrated enterprise rather than a collection of specialized department intelligence agencies. We recommended the creation of a DNI and a national counterterrorism center to lead U.S. intelligence in this endeavor. And of course, we look forward from hearing from these leaders this morning.

We also recommended that the FBI concentrate on developing an intelligence capability and advocated renewed efforts to close the gap between foreign and domestic intelligence within the government. We look forward to hearing from Sean Joyce of the FBI on these issues and of course from Director Mueller at lunch time.

Let me mention the members of the group very quickly. Professor Bruce Hoffman, Georgetown University, Peter Bergen of the New America Foundation, two outstanding

members of our national security group. They were the primary authors of a report released on the ninth anniversary of 9/11 regarding the current state of terrorist threat which has received wide publicity and much interest from the White House and from the intelligence community. I commend it to you.

Steve Flynn is also a member of the NSPG, played a significant role in drafting that report. He, of course, is the president of the Center for National Policy.

I also want to recognize John Gannon, who has had a long and distinguished career in the intelligence community and is now at the BAE Systems. John will be moderating a panel at today's conference.

Our group also includes Homeland Security Adviser Fran Townsend, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, former Energy Secretary Spence Abraham. We have two former attorney generals Dick Thornburgh and Ed Meese, and several former members of Congress, including Jim Turner and Dave McCurdy. I think the two of them are here with us this morning. And our newest member, former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

Our group exists to be a constructive resource to the Congress and the executive branch, an independent bipartisan voice on national security matters.

Now, let me turn to the introduction of Director James Clapper. Just chatting with him a few minutes ago, he has spent 46 years – I believe he told me – in the intelligence world, but not only that, he comes from a family of intelligence people. And so I can't think of anyone more familiar with the world of intelligence than the director.

He oversees the United States intelligence community, serves as the principal intelligence advisor to the president. He retired in 1995, after a very distinguished career in the United States Armed Forces. He began as a rifleman in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, culminated his career as lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force and director of Defense Intelligence Agency.

He also served as the director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency from 2001 through 2005. Prior to becoming the director of National Intelligence, he served for over three years in two administrations as the undersecretary of defense for intelligence.

It's my pleasure now to introduce to you Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. (Applause.)

MR. JAMES CLAPPER: Well, thank you very much, Congressman Hamilton. It's indeed a privilege and honor to be here with all of you. I see a lot of familiar faces out there. I certainly considered an honor and privilege to be introduced by literally a living legend, a real patriot who's served this country so long and so well. I understand, sir, that you're contemplating stepping down at the end of the year as president director of the Woodrow Wilson International Centers for Scholars and that you and Ms. Hamilton are moving back to Indiana to be closer to the family. And as a native – (inaudible) – myself, I can certainly appreciate the attraction.

I'd also like to thank the rest of the Bipartisan Policy Center for inviting me here and for the selfless work that the center does.

I believe students of history will point to the publication of the 9/11 Commission report – and thank you again Congressman Hamilton and Governor Kean and the rest of the commission – as the date when we realized that no matter what the source, we need to integrate our intelligence, which is my major theme at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, where I've been now for 58 days for who's counting.

Students of history will note that it was 29 years ago today that President Anwar Sadat was assassinated at the annual Egyptian armed forces day parade in Cairo. And if you think about it, we're still feeling the repercussions of that day. Assassins believed they were justified because they'd received a fatwa from the Egyptian named Omar Abdel-Rahman. You know him better as the "Blind Sheikh." He was convicted, in part, for his role in the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993, and he currently resides in a federal prison in Pennsylvania.

Another noteworthy figure from that same October 6 day was a radical doctor. He became the de facto spokesman for all the defendants at their trials in Cairo because of his facility with the English language. It was Ayman al Zawahiri, who runs al Qaeda these days and had his fingerprints on the USS Cole bombing and the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

Who'd have imagined that 29 years later, the broad reach of influence from these two is still directly affecting the territorial U.S. and our homeland security in the broadest sense.

Our focus today, as Mr. Hamilton said, is on the state of domestic intelligence reform, which means different things to different people. For my purpose here today, I mean the foreign intelligence activities of the intelligence community that take place inside the United States, mostly under the purview of the FBI and the Department of Homeland security. I'm not addressing criminal intelligence and law enforcement information, when they involve purely domestic activities, such as Timothy McVeigh or other purely domestic terrorists, which would be the province for a law enforcement and homeland security agencies, not the intelligence community.

Instead, I'm primary concerned with total intelligence reform, particularly integration as envisioned by certainly the spirit and the content of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, or IRTPA, which of course traces its inspiration to the work of the 9/11 Commission.

Now, when I think about the state of total intelligence reform, I'm focusing on integration, the merging of collection and analysis, particularly at the ODNI level, analytic transformation, analytic integrity, acquisition reform, counterintelligence, which is bigger on my agenda, and information sharing, of course. These important concepts supply the foreign intelligence collected within the U.S., just as they do it with intelligence collected outside our borders.

Let me assure you that progress is being made in this total context of intelligence reform. We're never there yet. We'll never reach nirvana. The challenges will, I think, face us in perpetuity. But I think – I'm a glass half full guy and I think a lot of progress has been made, particularly as I look back – if you go back 10 years ago, where were we then and where we – and I was in the community then – and where we are now.

We're working on information sharing initiatives across the board, but the classic dilemma of need to share versus need to know is still with us. And I would observe that the WikiLeaks episode, of course, it represents what I would consider a big yellow flag. And I think it's going to have a very chilling effect on this – on the need to share.

So we've done a lot, but as I indicated, challenges still remain.

We're dealing with the realities of globalization deblurring these days of foreign and domestic matters, which of course was indelibly thrust upon us with 9/11, so when threats like terrorism, international organized crime transcend borders, it's critical that we think holistically about intelligence. But at the same time, we're also a people who constitutionally and culturally attach a very high premium to our personal freedoms and our personal privacy.

Those values have, appropriately I think, led to restrictions on the collection, retention, and use of information about U.S. persons. So we have to strike the right balance between the acquisition of information essential to protect our nation and the protection of individual privacy and civil liberties. It requires tackling and resolving complex challenges to make intelligence reform a reality. And we must do intelligence reform in that context.

So how do we make sure our agencies have the flexibility and agility they need to find and address threats inside the U.S., especially when our Constitution, laws, policies, and system of government are designed specifically to guarantee people inside our borders fundamental freedom, and when our agencies had developed their own policies and procedures over decades, specifically to ensure that they respect those freedoms as they conduct their activities? And there really aren't any easy one-size-fits-all answers to these questions. We're working them hard. I know that many have a great deal to say – to think and say about this. But above all, we know we have to remain true to our oath to support and defend the Constitution.

Let me quote part of the vision statement from the National Intelligence strategy, which was drawn up by my predecessor, but which I certainly subscribe to.

“Intelligence community must exemplify America's values: operating under the rule of law, consistent with Americans' expectations for protection of privacy and civil liberties, respectful of human rights, and in a manner that retains the trust of the American people.”

So with that, let me speak briefly about what we do and what we don't do. Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act does allow the National Counterterrorism Center, which is part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence – in fact it represents about a third of it – to receive and analyze intelligence pertaining to domestic counterterrorist activities. Its role is

to analyze and integrate all terrorism information to identify international and transnational terrorist threats. NCTC's function is strategic and analytic, but it has no domestic collection mission per se. It receives the information it analyzes from the IC and from other government agencies, each of which properly collects that information under its own legal authorities. And I believe – it's my view – that NCTC is an impressive organization under very capable leadership, not say, as Mike Leiter, the director himself, that there is not room for more improvement. But it does put a laser focus on counterterrorism.

The FBI is a primary agency for conducting counterterrorism and counterintelligence investigations and operations inside the U.S. Collects domestic information for purely domestic threats and coordinates clandestine collection of foreign intelligence within the United States.

The bureau also runs one of the longest standing and most successful examples of a partnership that crosses federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial entities, a series of 104 joint terrorism task forces or JTTFs.

I've been impressed with the FBI's transformation, having watched it somewhat afar in my last job in the Department of Defense, and now of course I'm a little closer to it. But I think the systematic, disciplined way they're managing their transformation is actually quite impressive and quite effective.

The intelligence elements of the Department of Homeland Security also have a responsibility to analyze homeland security information, which can include purely domestic information. We are improving information sharing through state, local, and tribal organizations via the National Fusion Center Network. And this network is not part of the federal government per se, consists of 72 federally recognized fusion centers across the country in all 50 states and some 22 major urban centers.

I visited some of these and they're not necessarily mirror images of each other. And some are – have progressed farther than others. But I think in all cases, they are certainly maturing.

There're other components at DHS that also collect purely domestic information, such as immigration, customs, and border security. They pursue these collection activities for law enforcement and immigration enforcement purposes.

So why does all this matter? Well, as you all know, during the past year, the three attempted operations by al Qaeda and associated groups to New York and one over Detroit were two lone actor attacks by homegrown violent extremists in Little Rock and Fort Hood. Together they surpassed the number and pace of such attempts during any other year. This underscores the challenges of identifying and countering a persistent adaptive enemy. There've been several studies, recommendations, and corrective actions as a result of these events in New York, Detroit, Little Rock, and Fort Hood and the changing threat environment. Of note was the failure of analyses to identify, correlate, and fuse the various pieces of information, the failure to assign investigative responsibility and accountability, and the shortcomings of the watch listing system.

We've followed through on the recommendations from each report and even those which are still not public. But our adversaries are always going to try to adapt. The increasing role of Westerners, including Americans in al Qaeda and associated groups, increases their knowledge of Western culture and security practices and of course enhances their access. And of course, that obviously raises the potential specter for attack.

And we have the ever growing popular use of online social media and blogs by violent extremist groups. Now, these new media provide new avenues for groups of all kinds, including pro-democracy movements, which are helped by them during last year's elections in Iran. But when it comes to susceptibility to radicalization, virtual communities have become as important as the physical communities where people live, especially among youth.

Threats these days – be they terrorist, cyber, or something else – are often not purely foreign or domestic, so to protect our nation, we have to integrate information from all sources, both sensitive foreign and domestic data. And that vastly complicates the legal security policy, privacy, and technical requirements because of different rules governing different kinds of intelligence. Specifically, we face and we'll have to overcome enormous challenges on the following fronts. First, on always ensuring appropriate protection of privacy, while still allowing for the proper dissemination of U.S. persons information necessary to uncover and disrupt threats to the homeland. And second, ensuring that the U.S. government has the necessary legal and policy framework to allow discovery of critical information across departmental and agency data sets.

So let me close and then I'll be happy to take some questions.

At the end of the day, the IC, the intelligence community, has to be able to integrate intelligence to effectively address threats to the homeland. And the bottom line is this. We need to do our jobs keeping our country safe, while always maintaining the trust of the American people and protecting their civil liberties.

So thanks again to the Bipartisan Policy Center for the conference. We're – which provides a much needed forum for publicly addressing these complex issues. So thank you very much. Questions? (Applause.)

REP. HAMILTON: Okay, let's go. Are there questions this morning for the director? Let's start over here.

Q: You indicated that after the attacks in December that the analyses showed that there were three reasons why there were failures and there was the failure to integrate analyses, failure to provide investigative resources and the watch listing. Those three failures were exactly laid out in the 9/11 Commission report. Eight and a half years later, we're seeing exactly the same things. Why should we have any hope that in the next eight and a half years we won't be seeing exactly the same problems?

MR. CLAPPER: Well, these problems are perpetuals. As the complexity of the environment increases, which it is, and the sheer volume of data that we have to contend with, I think these are – and in light of the restrictions on particularly which accrue from protection of civil liberties, these are going to be perpetual challenges. I don't – I'm certainly not going to stand up here and say we're going to achieve nirvana some day. The system, as much as – as hard as we work at it, we're simply not going to bet a thousand. So these are going to be challenges. There certainly have been specific improvements that have been made. There are more that are in work. But we'll always have this challenge. So I'm – I can't guarantee you that eight and a half years from now that all will be well and we won't have these issues any longer because unfortunately things don't stop in place. The complexity increases.

REP. HAMILTON: All right. Further questions? We have one here. John?

Q: Good morning, sir. My question is DCIs and then your predecessors as DNI have had to manage the very heavy tension between responsibilities to manage within the community very complex challenges against the substantive responsibilities of being the president's analysts, so you have to attend those deputy principals meetings. You have to be responsible for substantive input to very complex international issues. How do you manage those two or how do you propose to manage those two?

MR. CLAPPER: John, that's a great question. And in my first 58 days, I found this personally that most daunting challenge I have is time management. And that is clearly – and I think that's been an observation of all previous DNIs and DCIs for that matter. That is the responsibilities you have for the – running an enterprise, an institution, versus providing the substantive intelligence report for custom number one and all that goes with that.

One of the things I'm doing is restructuring – this is kind of inside baseball, so I won't try to get too down to the weeds here, but essentially restructuring the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to enable that – better enable the DNI, at least this one, to attend to both those responsibilities. So my intent with the principal deputy, once we get one installed, confirmed, would be to use that position as a chief operating officer more or less to internally run the staff. And we're in the process now of making some adjustments on the staff. And I've stood up, although the law allows four deputy directors of national intelligence, we're only going to have one, who will be a deputy director for intelligence integration, and that stood up provisionally Friday. And that collapses what – here the four separate endeavors of collection and analysis.

And it's my belief at the ODNI level, certainly, that that's a place where these two normally separate endeavors in intelligence need to come together. It's certainly appropriate at the agency levels to keep them separate, to keep this one separate, but at the level of ODNI, I believe they should be integrated.

So this is – and I know I'm causing a lot of angst and that sort of, but I am convinced that this is the right way to go to get at some of these issues that I mentioned in my remarks. But you're right on, John, that's a big – that's a huge challenge for any DNI the way it's constituted now – running the enterprise and providing the intelligence support to the president.

REP. HAMILTON: Okay, a question way in the back.

Q: Eli Lake from the *Washington Times*. Mr. Clapper, in an article over the summer in the *Washington Post*, you remarked that only God knows the number of special access programs. Now, that you're the DNI, are you any closer to admonitions and can you confidently say that the White House and appropriate congressional oversight is fully a prize of the activities that the intelligence community is doing?

MR. CLAPPER: I don't know if Dana Priest is here, but I think we met for about 45 minutes and that's the only quote she took away from that session. I was humorously observing that there's only one entity in the universe that actually has all of the SAPs, the special access programs, and that's God.

Now, my piece of that, of course, or all the intelligence – there're many, many other compartments that don't deal necessarily with intelligence. So I was speaking to the totality of that.

And I think – I certainly have all the access I need. I think in the totality of things, when it's necessary, certainly and those over me do as well. There's always this dilemma between compartmentation and sharing, collaboration, or that sort of thing. But I'll tell you. In this day and age of the hemorrhage of leaks in this town, I think compartmentation – appropriate, reasonable compartmentation is the right thing to do.

REP. HAMILTON: A question here and then we'll come to the – right here.

MR. CLAPPER: By the way, if I may. I was at a meeting yesterday with the president and I was ashamed to have to sit there and listen to the president express his great angst about the leaking that's going on here in this town, and particularly when it's the widely quoted amorphous anonymous senior intelligence officials, who, for whatever reason, get their jollies from blabbing to the media. I'm not criticizing the media at all. You're doing your jobs. But I am criticizing people who are allegedly government officials, in responsible positions, who had supposedly taken an oath to protect this country. And as the president remarked, the irony here is people engaged in intelligence, who turn around and talk about it publicly.

Q: Mr. Director, the topic of our conversation today is meeting today's domestic intelligence. I think we all know kind of in a geographic sense what that means as contrasted with foreign. The one area where that blurs significantly is in cyber space, where the boundaries are very vague, uncertain and – if they exist at all, that's a global realm. So I just wonder if you could share with us if you have any initial thoughts during your early tenure about how the intelligence community should be organized to tackle this new realm.

MR. CLAPPER: Dual-hatting General Alexander, as director of NSA and as Cyber Command, I think this is a very logical move on the part of the Department of Defense. And it is the department's response to how to protect and if necessary war fight in a cyber context. I think

we're making headway on kind of the civilian side and a structure for that to protect the nation – particularly the nation's civilian infrastructure.

But the fact to the matter is that the nation's center of excellence for the cyber realm is the National Security Agency, and so the challenge here, the trick, I think, is to build mechanisms with due regard for civil liberties protection and privacy concern, but nevertheless will enable us to dynamically protect our infrastructure. And so we're working through this, but as a part of now two administrations – the last one and this one – I think many – the issues kind of continue. We just have different lawyers making the same arguments, I guess.

REP. HAMILTON: All right. The question here and then we'll come over to this side of the room. Where is the microphone – okay, thank you.

Q: Yes, Diana West, *Washington Examiner*. You mentioned the shortcomings of the watch list system and also the dangers posed by domestic actors gaining access or exposure to our security practices. And I just wondered did you know that a known Hamas operative was invited by the FBI into a six-week training session, Sheikh Kifah Mustapha, and is that the kind of problem you're talking about? What is your reaction to that?

MR. CLAPPER: Well, I think the FBI will be here later. I think the FBI has – you could speak to them about that. But I do think there is merit, frankly, in outreach to engage as much as possible with the Muslim community. I will acknowledge. I don't know the specifics of how this particular person was invited. But I do think there's great merit in such programs. And again, I think there'll be some FBI representatives here later. You can speak more specifically to that.

REP. HAMILTON: A question in the center aisle here.

Q: (Off mike.)

REP. HAMILTON: Let's wait for the microphone.

Q: I want to go back to the first question and your answer to it, which touches not only on the fact that we clearly do not have the perfect intelligence system nine years after 9/11, but the reality is I don't know that the public fully understands how we measure the effectiveness of intelligence. That we don't really have a good standard for saying – as we do with policing. I assume crime took place in the District of Columbia last night, but Chief Lanier is not going to get fired. We don't expect police to obliterate crime. How do you establish a metric for how good intelligence can be in this really complicated environment, one that can be communicated with Congress and can also be communicated to the public?

MR. CLAPPER: Well, Bill, as we like to say on the Hill, thanks for the question. That obviously is a huge imponderable. Evaluating intelligence, measuring and gauging is – it's – there's no different now – as long as I've been in the business, it's been a challenge. How much is a pound of intelligence source? When you can equate intelligence to saving a life, preventing an attack or some empirical measure like that, well, it's easy enough. The problem with

intelligence that there is also a temporal dimension to the value of intelligence. So something that's collected today will have a different value tomorrow, next week, next month, or five years from now. This is particularly true in the imagery business that I was in pretty intensively for five years as director of NGA. So a given image that's collected today, say from overhead, could easily have a different value a year or five years from now. But the great proclivity for Americans is instant gratification. I want – I'd like to collect something. I want to know its value right now.

Another dimension of this – I served in Korea, 25 years ago, as the director of intelligence for U.S. Forces Korea. And it was very important for me to have my eight hours of U-2 coverage every day. And if it showed nothing, that was very important for me to know. In fact, if we didn't see anything for three or four, five days, I got very, very nervous.

Now, you can't count up the number of electrograms for that because there were zero, but it was very important that we got the so-called "negative intelligence." So only – it sounds like an excuse or defense, but I just think that it's very, very hard to effectively assess the whole realm of intelligence – what's collected, what's analyzed – on a sort of a bit by bit basis. That's very difficult. Yet the obvious connections – again, saving lives, taking down terrorists, preventing attacks, and there're many, many cases of that where intelligence has clearly earned its keep. But there are many other things that you need to collect in order to get to that point that aren't so invitingly measured as someone with a green eyeshade might.

REP. HAMILTON: Okay, we have a question on the aisle there.

Q: Sir, you mentioned that the lines were being blurred in terms of intelligence collection between foreign and domestic. Is the law keeping up to protect the operators who both gather the intelligence and who act on the intelligence in terms of targeting possibly in areas where there is no war that's been declared? Drones fly overhead, but they don't gather some of the intelligence or take some of the action that we've seen reported in the past. Are the operators being protected where they're taking action outside the war zone?

MR. CLAPPER: I'm not sure I understood your question. I think the – if I understood the essence of it, it was are there – are there legal impediments to sharing foreign and domestic – would that be essence of it?

Q: When you're going to gather intelligence, say, on the ground in the Fatah or on the ground in Somalia and you can't be doing it, what protects you?

MR. CLAPPER: Well, the – I just have to say – what protects us as intelligence in doing that, other than the immediate hazard, I suppose, what protects us legally, is that – well, in this form, I guess I would say that depending on what arm of the intelligence community might be conducting this – such activities and under what conditions, what arrangements might there be with the host government, if there is one, all those sort of factors – and again, it's not a one-size-fits-all proposition – are I think rigorously considered, debated, and discussed. And if it's going to be a military operation, there are certain rules and policies and procedures that pertain to that. If it's non-military, that's another set of rules. Each of them has, I think, pretty rigorous

oversight aspects, particularly from the Congress. So it's that – those processes, I think, which afford the legal protections, if that's what you mean, quite aside from what hazards there may be in – fiscal hazards that may be in actually collecting if in fact – I'm not acknowledging this in any way – if in fact you're doing things on the ground.

REP. HAMILTON: Okay. I think we have time for probably about three more questions. Let's go ahead back there.

Q: Thank you, Director Clapper. Joel Spangenberg with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Recently, the Fiscal Year '10 Intelligence Authorization Bill passed the House and the Senate. It includes a provision for the DNI to work with GAO to come up with a directive to govern GAO access to the IC. Now, drawing from your background as undersecretary of defense for intelligence and also looking at DOD's IC elements strong collaboration in even the most sensitive matters, working with GAO, how do you see this benefiting the IC across its management component specifically, information sharing privacy, and also helping more effective and stronger congressional oversight?

MR. CLAPPER: Well, I've been – I've worked with, been the victim of, however you want to put it, numerous GAO studies in the past. Notably, in my last job, GAO was very involved in two areas that I had a lot of engagement with. One was on Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance Roadmap sorts of things, planning ahead for ISR resources. And the area where GAO has actually been a huge help by keeping the heat on us is in the area of clearance reform, which has been another allocation of mine for the last three years and which I intend to continue in this job.

The concern I have, which I have talked to members about, is I'm more concerned or sensitive about GAO getting into what I would consider the sort of the core essence of intelligence. That is evaluating sources and methods, critiquing national intelligence estimates, doing this sort of thing, which I think strikes at the very essence of what the intelligence committees were established to do. So my concern there is in – the committees, who perform a very important oversight role are not advocating that. Now, they want to have the GAO assist, detail GOP staff to – if they have the subject matter experts to the committees, I think that's fine as long as it's done under the auspices of the committees when you're getting at the sort of the core essence of what intelligence is and does.

REP. HAMILTON: Two more questions. Dave, you got a question? Center aisle.

Q: Mr. Director, thank you for your service. Dave McCurdy. We're at the Bipartisan Policy Center, so I couldn't resist the opportunity to ask you a question about congressional oversight. In the past, it was almost non-partisan, but in the past few years, a decade it seems to be becoming more and more partisan or polarized and I think less effective. Would you like to take an opportunity – off the record, I'm sure – (laughter) – to offer your suggestion or concerns about the way the committees are not functioning?

MR. CLAPPER: Well, I thank you, Chairman McCurdy. I was around in the '70s, as a young pup. I was at NSA in those days. And so I went through, watched the Church-Pike

hearings, which is of course what led ultimately to the establishment of the two committees – the House Permanent Select Committee and the Senate Select Committee for Intelligence. And my earliest interactions with the two committees were on the early '80s, when I was in the Air Force. And the atmosphere in the day was, as you characterized it I think, largely bipartisan, where the member felt that this was a sacred public trust that had nothing to do with home district or home state interests or equities. And I think it's fair to say that over time, I think, the two intelligence committee have gotten caught up somewhat in the partisanship that has – I think prevails today.

My own view on this – and I made this statement in the numerous calls I had on SSCI members in the run up to my confirmation and in my confirmation hearing. I think there has to be a positive relationship between the DNI and these two committees. In fact, I would assert and suggest that a positive relationship with the White House and a positive relationship with the Congress, particularly the two oversight committees, can do a lot to compensate for the alleged frailties and ambiguities of the office I'm now in. So it's my intent to try to do all I can to make that a positive relationship and to do what I can to make it a bipartisan discourse.

REP. HAMILTON: Okay, final question, right here.

Q: Christine Brim, Center for Security Policy. In the 9/11 Commission report a number of terms were used, including “jihad” and “Islamic terrorism,” which subsequently have been removed from the parlance, for both intelligence collection and intelligence analysis. Most recent example, with the Fort Hood report, which you mentioned, not only not in those terms, but did not even mention the name of the alleged shooter. John Brennan, recently, has come out essentially stating that the term “jihad” cannot be used. Do you support that policy of banning factual terms from intelligence collection and intelligence analysis?

MR. CLAPPER: I support policies which acknowledge the sensitivities here, which acknowledge the – what I would consider sort of the positive aspects of the Muslim religion. We have millions of people in this country who are practitioners of Muslim religion. And I think we in the intelligence need to be sensitive to those terms. There's plenty of terminology out there we can use that conveys – it conveys the meaning and the message we need to.

REP. HAMILTON: Let's express our appreciation to Director Clapper. (Applause.)

(END)