

Source: [All Sources](#) > [News](#) > [News Group File, Most Recent 90 Days](#) Terms: **goss and graham and september and leak** ([Edit Search](#))☒ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery*Associated Press Online August 2, 2002 Friday*Copyright 2002 Associated Press  
Associated Press Online

August 2, 2002 Friday 5:54 PM Eastern Time

**SECTION:** WASHINGTON DATELINE**LENGTH:** 699 words**HEADLINE:** Lawmakers Balk At Polygraph Request**BYLINE:** CHRISTOPHER NEWTON; Associated Press Writer**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON**BODY:**

Some members of a congressional inquiry into the **Sept. 11** attacks are rejecting FBI suggestions they undergo lie detector tests as part of an investigation into **leaks** from the panel - a probe they had requested.

Among those objecting are two leaders of the inquiry: House Democratic Whip Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., who have said the tests intrude on the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches.

"The Senate and, I assume, the House, has always investigated their own," said Shelby, the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The House and Senate Intelligence Committees, which are conducting the joint inquiry, requested the FBI investigation in June after CNN and other news organizations reported details of Arabic conversations intercepted by the National Security Agency on **Sept. 10**. The **leaks** outraged the White House. Vice President Dick Cheney called the committees' chairmen, Sen. Bob **Graham**, D-Fla., and Rep. Porter **Goss**, R-Fla., to complain.

In an interview with Associated Press reporters, Shelby said he believes all 37 members of the committees have been interviewed and all have been asked if they would submit to the tests.

White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan, asked about President Bush's opinion of submitting lawmakers to polygraphs, replied, "The Congress asked for this investigation and we're confident they'll work it out."

Shelby said he now believes inquiry leaders were wrong to ask the FBI to investigate the **leaks**. The inquiry is examining intelligence shortcomings by the FBI and other agencies leading up to the attacks.

"Here we are investigating the FBI for huge failures and now we're asking them to investigate us," he said.

Pelosi, the top Democrat on the House committee, didn't go that far, saying through a

spokesman that "an investigation under oath is one thing, but a polygraph is quite another."

But Rep. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., said he would have no problems taking the test.

"We've got to put a stop to these **leaks**," he said. "If that means me taking a polygraph test, if that will help in the process, I'm certainly willing to do so."

Rep. Ray Lahood, R-Ill., said he told the FBI that the members of the House and Senate committees should decide among themselves whether they want to submit to tests.

A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said lie detector tests are standard elements of FBI investigations and are meant to eliminate people from suspicion. They are always voluntary, the official said.

Shelby said top Senate leaders, include Majority Leader Tom Daschle and Minority Leader Trent Lott, have told him and other committee members that it's not a good idea to submit polygraphs.

Lott, R-Miss., told reporters that he expects most members of Congress wouldn't take the test "and I don't even know if that's a necessary or appropriate thing."

Asked what he would advise senators about taking the test, Lott said, "My counsel would be, keep your mouth shut if you're on the intelligence committee, and then don't complain if the FBI asks questions."

Daschle, D-S.D., said in a statement that he has "grave concerns" about the separation of powers, but "this matter is between the House and Senate Intelligence Committees and the Justice Department."

A spokeswoman for **Graham** said he believes most members agree with the FBI investigation and it will not interfere with the inquiry. **Goss** could not be reached for comment.

In addition to the lawmakers, the FBI is interviewing several dozen congressional staff members and even some CIA officers.

Investigators are trying to determine who leaked information about communications in Arabic that made vague references to an impending attack on the United States.

An intelligence source told The Associated Press they contained the phrases, "Tomorrow is zero hour" and "The match is about to begin."

The intercepts weren't translated until **Sept. 12**.

Their relevance is uncertain. Intelligence officials said it wasn't clear if the conversations referred to the **Sept. 11** hijackings. Even if they did, they offered few clues about the nature of the attacks.

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Source: [All Sources](#) > [News](#) > [News Group File, Most Recent 90 Days](#) Terms: **goss and graham and september and leak** ([Edit Search](#))☒ Select for FOCUS™ or Delivery*The New York Times, August 2, 2002*Copyright 2002 The New York Times Company  
The New York Times

August 2, 2002, Friday, Late Edition - Final

**SECTION:** Section A; Page 18; Column 3; National Desk**LENGTH:** 355 words**HEADLINE:** F.B.I. Inquiry on 9/11 **Leak** Upsets Lawmakers on Committees**BYLINE:** By CHRISTOPHER MARQUIS**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, Aug. 1**BODY:**

The F.B.I. has interviewed dozens of members of the House and Senate intelligence committees and asked them to submit to lie detector tests as part of an effort to learn who leaked classified material to reporters in the wake of the **Sept. 11** terrorist attacks, Congressional officials said today.

But a number of the lawmakers on the committees have refused to take the polygraph tests and have voiced uneasiness over the constitutional precedent of being investigated by the agency they oversee, the officials said. Ranit Schmelzer, a spokeswoman for Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, the majority leader, said the inquiry had provoked "grave concerns about the constitutional separation of powers issues raised by having one branch of government administering a polygraph to employees of another branch."

Still, Ms. Schmelzer said, the matter "is between the House and Senate intelligence committees and the Justice Department."

The committee had asked that the F.B.I. conduct the investigation into accusations of **leaks** of secret information by someone affiliated with the committee and, Ms. Schmelzer said, it was up to the bureau and the committee officials to develop appropriate guidelines.

Lawmakers' complaints about the F.B.I. inquiry were first reported in the Friday issue of The Washington Post, which said nearly all 37 members of the two committees had been interviewed, as well as 60 Congressional staff members and officials at the Central Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon and the National Security Agency.

The F.B.I. inquiry was requested by the chairmen of the intelligence committees, Senator Bob **Graham**, Democrat of Florida, and Representative Porter J. **Goss**, Republican of Florida, after news organizations reported on Arabic conversations that had been intercepted by the National Security Agency a day before the attacks.

That disclosure embarrassed the officials at the security agency, which failed to translate conversations that anticipated the attacks until **Sept. 12**. The agency intercepts reportedly included the remark: "Tomorrow is zero hour."



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August 02, 2002, Friday, Final Edition

**SECTION:** A SECTION; Pg. A01**LENGTH:** 943 words**HEADLINE:** FBI **Leak** Probe Irks Lawmakers; Many Spurn Polygraph Requests On Issue of NSA's 9/11 Intercept**BYLINE:** Dana Priest, Washington Post Staff Writer**BODY:**

FBI agents have questioned nearly all 37 members of the Senate and House intelligence committees and have asked many if they would be willing to submit to lie detector tests as part of a broad investigation into **leaks** of classified information related to the **Sept. 11** attacks, according to officials involved in the inquiry.

Most of the lawmakers have told the FBI they would refuse a polygraph, citing the constitutional separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of government and the unreliability of the exam, those involved in the inquiry said.

Although the chairmen of the intelligence committees, Sen. Bob **Graham** (D-Fla.) and Rep. Porter J. **Goss** (R-Fla.), asked the FBI to conduct the inquiry, its unprecedented scale has angered some lawmakers, according to people close to the investigation. The lawmakers are unhappy that the FBI, an agency they oversee, is investigating them. In addition to committee members, FBI agents have questioned 60 congressional staff members and officials at the CIA, the Defense Department and the National Security Agency. They are trying to find the source of news stories that quoted Arabic communications making vague references to an impending attack on the United States, which were intercepted by the NSA on **Sept. 10** but not translated until **Sept. 12**.

Ranit Schmelzer, spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.), said Daschle had "grave concerns about the congressional separation of powers issues raised by having one branch of government asking to polygraph employees of another branch." But, she added in a statement, "this matter is between the House and Senate intelligence committees and the Justice Department. The intelligence committees asked the Justice Department to conduct this investigation and it is up to these parties to determine the



appropriate guidance" for members regarding the polygraph.

Congressional leaders established a joint intelligence panel this year to review the performances of the CIA, FBI and other intelligence agencies leading up to the **Sept. 11** attacks and to recommend improvements to the government's intelligence community.

As the panel's hearings began, stories appeared about the NSA intercepts, drawing a heated White House rebuke. Vice President Cheney telephoned **Goss and Graham** to chastise them for the disclosures, while presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said the information was "alarmingly specific" and could compromise the war on terrorism. Administration officials said the **leaks** could be a federal crime.

Saying he was "chagrined" to have received the call from Cheney, **Goss**, along with **Graham**, wrote Attorney General John D. Ashcroft to request an investigation. The request was highly unusual because it bypassed the normal procedure of having a congressional ethics committee investigate an unwanted disclosure.

The intercepts include two snippets of conversation, one stating "the match is about to begin," and the other saying, "tomorrow is zero hour."

Intelligence officials have said the two messages, even if translated on **Sept. 10**, would not have provided enough information to prevent the attacks because they were unspecific as to the time or place where an attack would occur. But the disclosure was embarrassing to the NSA, highlighting chronic problems at an agency that for years has been criticized for being able to translate and analyze only a fraction of the millions of conversations and electronic transmissions it intercepts around the world.

The Washington Times first reported the intercepts and the delay in translating them 11 days after the **September** attacks. Several news organizations published or broadcast similar stories in early June. But it was not until a June 19 CNN report that cited "two congressional sources," and June 20 reports in other major newspapers, including The Washington Post, that Cheney called **Goss and Graham**.

Experts in the separation of powers said yesterday that the FBI investigation raised serious concerns about whether lawmakers would feel free to aggressively review the performance of intelligence agencies and the FBI.

"Now the FBI can open dossiers on every member and staffer and develop full information on them. It creates a great chilling effect on those who would be critical of the FBI," said Charles Tiefer, a University of Baltimore law professor and former House deputy general counsel. "The FBI, with their great boots, are tramping around on ground that is privileged and privileged for good reason, to preclude intimidation of members."

The Bush administration has aggressively tried to close down sources of news reporting that reveals information that is potentially embarrassing or, in the administration's view, harmful to national security. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has started an investigation at the Pentagon into the source of a New York Times story last month that laid out one possible plan in a war against Iraq.

During a congressional hearing Wednesday, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) questioned Rumsfeld about the level of the administration's concerns about **leaks** over Iraq policy, telling the defense secretary that unwanted disclosures are "a game that was played when you first came here nearly 30 years ago, and it will probably be played 30 years from now."

"The fact is that there are competing proposals within the administration, and certain people are using or attempting to gain advantage by leaking information . . . and when it is resolved

within the administration . . . then I think you'll find the **leaks** will stop," McCain said.

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*Roll Call August 1, 2002 Thursday*

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Roll Call

August 1, 2002 Thursday

**LENGTH:** 1071 words

**HEADLINE:** FBI's **Sept. 11 Leak** Probe Irks Senators

**BYLINE:** By John Bresnahan

**BODY:**

FBI agents began fanning out on Capitol Hill in recent weeks, questioning Senators serving on the Intelligence Committee as part of an unprecedented effort to find out who leaked classified information from the Congressional probe of intelligence failures prior to the **Sept. 11** terrorist attacks.

FBI officials are also asking Hill staffers caught up in the investigation to submit to polygraph examinations, according to Congressional sources.

Despite the fact that Congressional leaders themselves asked the FBI to conduct the extraordinary probe, some lawmakers bristled at the investigation, seeing it as a violation of the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches.

These lawmakers are also troubled by the fact that the FBI is conducting a probe of Congress at the same time that a joint House-Senate intelligence panel is looking into allegations of intelligence lapses by both the FBI and CIA before the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The FBI wants to know who told CNN and other news outlets about two al Qaeda radio messages intercepted by the super-secretive National Security Agency prior to the **Sept. 11** attacks. The messages, received **Sept. 10**, said "Tomorrow is zero hour" and "The match begins tomorrow," although the intercepts were not translated by NSA analysts until after the attacks.

Several Senators confirmed this week that they have recently been visited by the FBI, with the sessions taking place in their personal offices.

Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) said two agents came to his office late last week, spending "15, 20 minutes" asking the lawmaker questions, although he did not want to discuss the specifics of the agents' inquiries. He did add that the session "didn't bother me."

"They were very professional," Bayh said of the FBI agents. "I think they have no choice but to look into this."

Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) all confirmed that they had similar interviews with the FBI. Several other Senators, such as Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), acknowledged that they expected visits from federal agents before the Senate adjourns this week for the August recess.

"It's my understanding that they're interviewing all the members of the [Intelligence]



committee,"said Roberts.

Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.), another member of Intelligence panel, was one of several Senators unhappy with the idea of an FBI investigation of sitting lawmakers.

"The whole process concerns me,"said Thompson, who is retiring this year. "At a time when we were investigating the FBI they're investigating us? It really bothers me."

Both House and Senate rules specifically state that **leaks** of classified information should be investigated by the Congressional ethics committees. That was the procedure used in 1995 when the House ethics committee looked into allegations that then-Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) leaked classified information on CIA activity in Guatemala while he served on the Intelligence Committee. The House ethics committee took no action against Torricelli for revealing the Guatemalan material.

The Justice Department probe on the NSA intercept **leaks** was requested of Attorney General John Ashcroft by Sen. Bob **Graham** (D-Fla.) and Rep. Porter **Goss** (R-Fla.), the Senate and House intelligence committee chairmen, as well as their counterparts across the aisle. **Graham** was interviewed by the FBI on Monday, while Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), vice chairman of the Senate intelligence panel, sat down with them last Thursday.

The request for FBI help came after the White House, most notably Vice President Cheney, complained in late June that the **leak** on the NSA intercepts had compromised U.S. intelligence.

The news reports about the NSA intercepts appeared just two days after CIA Director George Tenet, FBI Director Robert Mueller and Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, the head of the NSA, testified in a closed-door session before the joint panel about what their agencies knew and what actions they took prior to **Sept. 11**.

Since its **leak** investigation began, FBI agents had begun quietly interviewing House and Senate intelligence committee staffers, although sessions with individual lawmakers apparently did not start until last week.

FBI agents are asking the staffers if they would undergo polygraphs, although the number of staffers who have actually been tested so far cannot be determined. No similar requests have been made of lawmakers who serve on the panels.

It's also unclear if any House Members have been interviewed yet. The House has already begun its August recess, and Members are back home or already on the road campaigning. An aide to one House Republican who serves on the House Intelligence Committee said, "No one has talked to my boss." This source wasn't sure if that was a signal that FBI investigators believe the **leak** may have originated from a Senator or Senate staffers.

**Graham** dismissed complaints about the FBI interviews from his colleagues, saying it was "part of the normal process" to determine who leaked the information on the NSA intercepts. Shelby said he had "no problems" with the FBI investigation.

But legal experts believe that the FBI probe raises broader constitutional questions on the separation of powers and whether this investigation would violate the historical balance between the various branches of government.

Charles Tiefer, a former House deputy general counsel and University of Baltimore law professor, said that "calling in the Justice Department is absurd because Congress itself would mete out any punishment, and this just undermines the intelligence committees' vital independence from those who are supposed to be under its scrutiny."



"The power to investigate **leak** allegations is the power to control," Tiefer added. "You seriously undermine the Intelligence committees' ability, at a critical historic moment, to look independently and critically at the intelligence agencies."

The joint House-Senate committee has not held any public hearings up to this point. Paul Anderson, a spokesman for **Graham**, said the joint panel plans to call Mueller and Tenet for a public session sometime after Labor Day. **Graham** has already announced that the **Sept. 11** investigation will end with the 107th Congress, and expects a report to be issued sometime early next year.

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment for this article.

**LOAD-DATE:** August 1, 2002

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*Los Angeles Times July 21, 2002 Sunday*

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July 21, 2002 Sunday Home Edition

**SECTION:** Part A Main News; Part 1; Page 22; National Desk

**LENGTH:** 1081 words

**HEADLINE:** The Nation;  
White House Moves to Tighten Loose Lips, Stop **Leaks** to Media

**BYLINE:** PAUL RICHTER and GREG MILLER, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

The Bush administration, until now considered one of the most effective ever at controlling information, is suddenly struggling to plug **leaks** that threaten political embarrassment and, officials say, harm to national security.

FBI investigators recently were interrogating the staff of a congressional panel probing intelligence failures of **Sept. 11**, and they may take the unprecedented step of using polygraph exams.

After a public display of anger by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Pentagon officials have begun an inquiry into who gave newspapers draft war plans for a possible attack on Iraq.

And the State Department took the highly unusual step recently of detaining a reporter at its Foggy Bottom headquarters in an effort to find out who leaked a classified diplomatic cable that contained embarrassing information about the department's visa program. Top administration officials have said from the beginning of President Bush's term that they are serious about enforcing the laws that make it a crime to **leak** classified documents. But not until now has it become fully apparent how vigorous they are willing to be.

The cases also demonstrate the limits on how tightly any administration can control information. Though Bush's team is known for keeping the lid on--even Cabinet members were unaware of Bush's plan to create a Department of Homeland Security--the president's team has not been able to control everyone in the executive branch or in Congress.

And questions are beginning to arise about the wisdom of even trying to root out the sources of **leaks**.

William Kristol, who was chief of staff to former Vice President Dan Quayle, said the government should only mobilize against **leaks** that genuinely threaten lives and national security.

"There's not much evidence that any of the **leaks** here are of that character," said Kristol,



now editor of the Weekly Standard magazine.

The Capitol Hill investigation was launched last month after news organizations, citing congressional sources, disclosed contents of a classified briefing by the ultra-secret National Security Agency.

In closed-door testimony, NSA officials reportedly acknowledged that the agency had intercepted Al Qaeda messages **Sept. 10** saying "tomorrow is zero day" and "the match begins tomorrow," but had not translated the messages from Arabic until **Sept. 12**. Within hours of the officials' testimony, those messages were being reported on television and on the Internet.

Angered by the disclosure, Vice President Dick Cheney called the chairmen of the House and Senate intelligence committees, demanding a crackdown. The lawmakers, Sen. Bob **Graham** (D-Fla.) and Rep. Porter J. **Goss** (R-Fla.), responded by sending a letter to Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft inviting an inquiry.

Among the questions staff members faced was whether they would be willing to submit to polygraph tests, according to one aide.

The Pentagon inquiry began after The Times and, later, the New York Times, published the broad outlines of a proposal for attacking Iraq. The plan called for using land-, air- and sea-based forces to hit Iraq from three directions.

Rumsfeld said in a TV interview last week that the document appeared to be from a lower-level planner. A defense official told Associated Press on Friday that investigators were difficulty figuring out which document the reports were based on.

State Department security officials detained reporter Joel Mowbray of the National Review magazine July 12 after Mowbray said during a daily briefing at the department's headquarters that he had a classified cable from the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, about embarrassing problems with the granting of visas there.

Some critics, including some conservative members of Congress, have complained that an accelerated visa program has opened U.S. borders to Saudis who may pose security threats.

Mowbray was detained for about 15 minutes, he said in an interview, while Diplomatic Security Service officials sought to find out whether he had the cable with him. State Department officials said he was stopped because his comments to chief spokesman Richard Boucher indicated he had a copy with him. In those circumstances, they said, security officials could not simply allow him to leave the building without trying to recover it.

As congressional critics have argued, the administration sometimes has used classified information to make its case in public.

In May, White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, during a news briefing, outlined a covert CIA plan the administration was close to approving in the summer of 2001 that was designed to help guerrilla fighters oust Afghanistan's ruling Taliban.

The disclosure was widely seen as an effort by the White House to deflect criticism that it was not pursuing Al Qaeda aggressively enough, even though Bush was warned during a CIA briefing that the terrorist organization might seek to hijack commercial aircraft.

Many administrations have tried to halt **leaks**, including President Nixon's "plumbers" unit from the Watergate era.

But many legal experts say **leak** investigations tend to be frustrating--often fruitless--undertakings, in part because secret information is distributed so widely and so quickly among officials.

For example, former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh told Congress that, because of this problem, the FBI was unable to pinpoint who had leaked the information that former security guard Richard Jewell was under suspicion in the 1996 bombing during the Summer Olympics in Atlanta. It turned out that Jewell was falsely accused.

"It's often the case that people 'know' who did it, or think they know, but don't have the proof," said Jeffrey Smith, a former general counsel at the CIA.

In one telling sign of just how prickly a subject **leaks** can be, an internal report on the issue by the Justice Department has been bottled up for months, amid infighting within the administration.

The report, commissioned last year by Congress, is supposed to weigh in on what government can do to curb **leaks** and whether additional legislation is necessary.

A draft of the report was completed months ago, recommending against new legislation. But it has been held up, largely by opposition from CIA Director George J. Tenet, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Tenet is said to be dissatisfied that the report doesn't advocate more aggressive enforcement of **leak** laws by Justice.

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*The Miami Herald July 14, 2002 Sunday F1 EDITION*

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The Miami Herald

July 14, 2002 Sunday F1 EDITION

**SECTION:** A; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 962 words

**HEADLINE:** Infighting hampers probe of **Sept. 11**;  
Joint inquiry copes with **leaks**, blame

**BYLINE:** FRANK DAVIES [fdavies@herald.com](mailto:fdavies@herald.com)

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

Almost halfway through its historic investigation, the progress of the joint House-Senate inquiry into the **Sept. 11** attacks is being hampered by infighting, politics, **leaks** and dueling agendas.

Several staffers at a recent meeting talked openly of "getting" CIA Director George Tenet fired, according to two knowledgeable sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. They described a staff that has been divided and lacking in direction.

One source said that members of the independent staff made "disparaging, unprofessional" comments about Tenet one day after the CIA director's closed-door testimony last month before the House and Senate committees. That's exactly the sort of "blame game" Sen. Bob **Graham** and Rep. Porter **Goss**, the two chairmen from Florida overseeing the investigation, promised would not happen.

**Goss** has described the inquiry as "fact- and witness-driven," with the goal of finding out what a dozen intelligence agencies did -- or did not do -- before the terrorist attacks.

**Goss**, the Sanibel Republican who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, expressed deep concerns about staff problems and lack of control in conversations last week, according to two sources. He declined to be interviewed about these inquiry issues.

Democrat **Graham**, who has chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee for the last year, said staff problems are being addressed and should be kept in perspective. He also praised the staff for "some excellent groundwork" in preparation for public hearings later this year.

"This is a difficult process we're going through, and we're dealing with issues that are without precedent," **Graham** said. He noted it is the first time two standing committees of Congress

- with a total of 37 members -- have come together to oversee such a complex inquiry.

"We're not out to get anybody or build statues to anybody," he said.

#### YEARLONG STUDY

The \$2.9 million yearlong inquiry is the only investigation so far into the **Sept. 11** attacks. The Bush administration grudgingly agreed to cooperate with the inquiry while opposing an independent investigation. Many congressional leaders, especially Democrats, continue to call for an independent commission to investigate **Sept. 11** as the only way to escape the politics of Capitol Hill and avoid the cozy relationship some committees have with the agencies they monitor.

But **Graham** said he's confident the inquiry can reach its ambitious goal in a tight time frame -- and recommend changes by February.

Two dozen temporary staffers, many of them veterans of the CIA, FBI and the military, have been hired to investigate agencies that in some cases were once their employer. Many are experts in particular fields. Five or six are retired.

At least one has generated controversy. Heading up the team of staffers investigating the FBI is Thomas Kelley, a former deputy general counsel of the FBI who allegedly obstructed an independent investigation two years ago of the 1993 Waco siege.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, a critic of the FBI, said last month in a letter to the intelligence committees that he was "concerned" about Kelley's role. Eleanor Hill, the staff director of the current inquiry, is reviewing that complaint.

L. Britt Snider, the original staff director, was forced to leave in April after a dispute over a staffer's security clearance.

Since then, a lack of control and direction -- and interference from permanent staffers of the intelligence committee -- has set back the investigation, according to two sources.

"Permanent staffers [for Senate Intelligence] started tasking the joint inquiry staff, telling them what to do," said one source.

**Graham** said that has ended, and that Hill, an experienced congressional investigator and former Pentagon inspector general who came aboard in June, has set rules restricting such contact.

The insulation of the independent staff is important because it is supposed to investigate the intelligence agencies free of political and institutional pressures.

And the staff has made important progress, the two sources said, interviewing dozens of officials, analysts and agents and sifting through thousands of documents. It's painstaking "connect the dots" work, and eventually much of it will be made public.

Some of the work has been revealed in recent **leaks** about top FBI officials ignoring field agents' warnings, and the CIA's inability to track two terrorists who entered the United States and hijacked the airliner that hit the Pentagon.

"There is more to come, and some of it is startling -- missed signals, information not passed on -- and the intelligence community knows it will come out," said one source.



## MORE DELAYS

But the investigation faces further delays. Reviewing a flood of information and deciding what to declassify for the public will take time and public hearings will not begin until at least **September**.

Recently Hill and her deputy decided to take depositions from some officials -- a time-consuming formal proceeding that allows a federal employee to bring in private counsel. The staff, however, lacks lawyers experienced in taking depositions and last month Hill was trying to lure a few to work on a temporary basis.

"I think depositions will be used selectively," **Graham** said.

**Leaks** also jeopardize the investigation. The FBI is investigating the staff for one possible **leak**, and **Goss** is said to be worried that someone may be trying to sabotage the investigation.

**Graham** said he is concerned, but added that **leaks** are a way of life in Washington.

"I'm an adult and I know how the game is played," **Graham** said. "Look at the war plan against Iraq in The New York Times last week. That wasn't a **leak** -- that was a dam bursting."

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*The Bulletin's Frontrunner June 26, 2002 Wednesday*

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The Bulletin's Frontrunner

June 26, 2002 Wednesday

**SECTION:** Terrorism News

**LENGTH:** 230 words

**HEADLINE:** Some Senators Question Probe Of NSA **Leak.**

**BODY:**

CQ (6/25, McCutcheon) reports some Senate Intelligence Committee members "on Tuesday sharply questioned a decision by the panel's leaders to join the House in requesting a Justice Department investigation of intelligence **leaks.**" The chairmen "and ranking members of the House and Senate Intelligence committees last week asked Attorney General John Ashcroft to look into the source of a news report that the National Security Agency (NSA) had intercepted information **Sept. 10** indicating a major event would occur the next day." Sen. Orrin Hatch, a member of the Senate panel, said, "I personally have real qualms about that. ... It's a little unseemly to have the people we're investigating investigate us." CQ adds lawmakers "said they may seek to have the Senate committee hold a closed business meeting to discuss the decision to bring in the Justice Department." Sen. Fred Thompson said, "It's fair to say that I have concerns about [the department conducting the investigation]." Committee leaders "decided to seek the investigation after Vice President Dick Cheney called Senate Intelligence Chairman Bob **Graham** (D-FL) and House Chairman Porter J. **Goss** (R-FL) to scold them about the **leak.**" But some lawmakers "said they resented Cheney's accusation that the **leak** originated from Congress. They said they pride themselves on protecting classified information."

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*The Associated Press June 21, 2002, Friday, BC cycle*

The Associated Press

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June 21, 2002, Friday, BC cycle

**SECTION:** Washington Dateline

**LENGTH:** 666 words

**HEADLINE:** Congressional committees ask for Justice Department **leak** probe after White House complains about story

**BYLINE:** By PETE YOST, Associated Press Writer

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

A congressional inquiry into the **Sept. 11** attacks ended a third week of closed-door hearings by asking the Justice Department to hunt down the sources of a leaked news story.

At President Bush's direction, Vice President Dick Cheney called the chairmen of the panel to complain that news organizations were reporting two **Sept. 10** messages intercepted by the National Security Agency. The messages, which warned of an impending major event the next day, weren't translated by the NSA until the day after the attacks.

"We will cooperate with the FBI in any way possible" to find out how the information became public, said Rep. Porter **Goss**, R-Fla., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. President Bush, welcoming the other chairman, Sen. Bob **Graham**, D-Fla., aboard Air Force One for a trip to Florida on Friday, "leaned over and said, 'You're doing the right thing,'" **Graham** told reporters.

**Graham** said he wasn't sure if Bush meant to endorse the joint inquiry itself, or the panel's request Thursday for the FBI investigation into **leaks**. "But I like to think it was universal," **Graham** said.

Later, at a senior citizens center in Orlando, Fla., Bush praised **Graham's** work on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"During this time where America's at war, the gathering of intelligence is incredibly important. And I appreciate the way he has led that committee," Bush said.

In addition to dealing with the **leak** issues, the committees revamped their schedule Thursday.

Hearings, which were to have been opened to the public starting next week, will now be postponed until after July Fourth. It is uncertain that they will be public even then.

Cheney called **Goss and Graham**, head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, "to express the president's concerns about this inappropriate disclosure," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Fleischer called the disclosure of the language of the NSA intercepts "alarmingly specific."

**Goss** said the Justice Department investigation was necessary because committee members are entrusted to keep classified information secret, and undercover operatives or U.S. officials could be endangered by such **leaks**.

"We've got people out in harm's way who are conducting a lot of serious business," **Goss** said.

Concern about possible **leaks** has been a key reason the White House has opposed setting up an independent commission to investigate the attacks. The commission has been sought by some lawmakers and relatives of the victims.

Bush has said the intelligence panels were better positioned to avoid **leaks**. They "understand the obligations of upholding our secrets and our sources and methods of collecting intelligence," he said last month.

But Bush has clashed with Congress before over **leaks**. On Oct. 5, he issued a memo limiting sensitive congressional briefings to the top leaders of the House and Senate and their intelligence committees. He dropped the restrictions a week later after getting assurances from **Graham and Goss** that they would rein in their members.

The messages intercepted by the NSA were recorded in two separate conversations and contained the phrases, "Tomorrow is zero hour," and "The match is about to begin," an intelligence source said.

The messages were believed to be recorded from telephone conversations.

The committees said the staff is inundated with information from intelligence agencies, requiring extensive work before there are further hearings.

In addition, the committees are having discussions with the Justice Department regarding possibly declassifying information about Zacarias Moussaoui, who faces trial as an alleged conspirator in the **Sept. 11** attacks.

The committees want some information about Moussaoui to be available for future hearings. The Justice Department is weighing whether declassifying the information will jeopardize its criminal case. The committees also are having discussions with various intelligence agencies about declassifying information.

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*Los Angeles Times June 21, 2002 Friday*

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June 21, 2002 Friday Home Edition

**SECTION:** Part A Main News; Part 1; Page 15; National Desk

**LENGTH:** 1252 words

**HEADLINE:** THE NATION;

White House Angered by **Leaks** on Intelligence;

Security: Media reports about communication intercepted on **Sept. 10** cited congressional sources. Lawmakers promise to crack down.

**BYLINE:** ERIC LICHTBLAU and JANET HOOK, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

**BODY:**

WASHINGTON -- The White House charged Thursday that unnamed congressional sources compromised national security by leaking sensitive counter-terrorism material, a charge that reignited the debate over how much the public should know in a time of war.

An irate Vice President Dick Cheney called two congressional leaders to convey President Bush's "deep concerns" about media reports disclosing that U.S. eavesdroppers picked up cryptic references on **Sept. 10** to a possible attack the next day.

Leaders of the joint House-Senate panel investigating **Sept. 11** intelligence failures promised an immediate crackdown on **leaks** and asked the Justice Department to determine the source of the media reports. Privately, however, some Capitol Hill officials grumbled that the Bush administration is conducting its war on terrorism largely in secret, without scrutiny and input from Congress or the public. The episode comes at a time when the Bush administration has angered many open-government advocates by moving aggressively to clamp down on classified and unclassified security information.

The administration has restricted--or shut down--access to reams of material that was readily available before **Sept. 11**. Dozens of Web sites with information on nuclear facilities, water treatment facilities and the like have been closed down; some government archive records have been destroyed; standards for granting Freedom of Information Act requests have been toughened; and records on the detention of terrorism suspects have been kept secret because officials say the information could help terrorists.

The White House's broadside over the eavesdropping material underscored what White House spokesman Ari Fleischer described Thursday as the tension between a culture that places a high value on the free flow of information and a nation that is "in the middle of a war."

One State Department counter-terrorism analyst, in an opinion piece published Sunday in the Washington Post, went so far as to accuse the U.S. media of "treason" for publishing numerous stories on vulnerabilities in U.S. aviation, nuclear facilities and chemical plants that



terrorists could put to deadly use.

Recent opinion polls show the public wants as much information as it can get on war and terrorism issues without compromising security, but people are often unsure just where that dividing line is.

Indeed, the debate has proved a recurring source of tension for generations--from the time of World War II, when the military warned that "loose lips sink ships," through the invasion Grenada ordered by President Reagan and the Persian Gulf War spearheaded by Bush's father and Cheney.

Now, however, some critics think the Bush administration has gone too far.

"We're seeing unprecedented secrecy," said Lucy Dalglish, head of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in the Washington area.

"When the administration pushes too far ... it's up to the public and the media to push back and say, 'We're not going to let you make the unilateral decision on what is appropriate for us to know,' " she said. "You don't want to give [terrorists] a road map, but does anyone seriously think the terrorists don't know we have the ability to eavesdrop on them?"

At issue are two cryptic communications intercepted by the top-secret National Security Agency on **Sept. 10** from Afghanistan. Translated the day after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the messages said "tomorrow is zero day" and "the match begins tomorrow," sources said. The contents of the NSA intercepts were first aired Wednesday by CNN and later confirmed and reported by The Times and other media.

Members of the joint House-Senate panel, along with aides who have classified clearance, were told of the NSA material some weeks ago. Congressional sources say members of the panel are eager to find out why it took two days to translate the messages, but Fleischer said the more pressing matter is determining how the information got out.

Fleischer, while saying that "we do not know who did it," noted that the NSA information was passed to the intelligence panel in closed session and that several news accounts cited congressional sources. "The president is satisfied it's not coming from his administration," he said.

Bush has "very deep concerns about anything that would be inappropriately leaked ... that could interfere with America's ability to fight the war on terrorism," Fleischer said. That is why the president had Cheney call the chairmen of the joint panel, Democratic Sen. Bob **Graham** and Republican Rep. Porter J. **Goss**, both of Florida, Fleischer said.

Fleischer recounted that in 1998, after public reports that the United States was monitoring Osama bin Laden's satellite phone, U.S. authorities lost any communications from the phone. It is believed Bin Laden stopped using it.

When Cheney called **Graham**, the vice president "was not a happy man," **Graham** told reporters.

Cheney "emphasized the fact that the administration was attempting to be cooperative with our investigation, providing us with a very large amount of material, that the understanding was that it would be handled with discretion," **Graham** said. He suggested that Cheney threatened to curb the administration's cooperation if the leaking did not stop.

After Cheney's tongue-lashing, leaders of the intelligence committees called meetings to convey the White House's displeasure.



"This is intolerable," said Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco). "We have called for the investigation and [the **leaks** ] will end."

Committee members fired off an immediate letter to Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft requesting an investigation. One senior congressional aide, however, said it was "ironic" that the investigation would be limited to the NSA material and would not include suspicions that the administration itself has leaked sensitive information when it served its purposes.

While lawmakers publicly deplored the **leaks**, privately a Republican member of the intelligence panel said it was symptomatic of the Bush administration's overly controlling style of running its foreign policy.

"It's a closed shop," the Republican panel member said. "There is a sense of irritation on the part of the committee."

Rep. Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) said Democrats feel shut out. "We are an appendage," he said.

Hoyer said Bush's secretive style could come back to haunt the administration, because lawmakers will be less willing to rally around the White House in times of international trouble if they have not had a role in developing the policy.

Many Republicans did not know, for instance, that Bush was going to propose a Department of Homeland Security until the morning of the announcement.

Members of Congress have also been frustrated that Bush had refused, until Thursday, to let Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge testify before Congress. And members of the judiciary committees were upset that they did not get any advance word of Ashcroft's recent plan to give the FBI broader rein to pursue terrorism investigations.

For all the tension, some people on Capitol Hill grudgingly accept the information clampdown.

"The whole landscape has changed," said a congressional aide. "Certainly a year ago, everyone would have been saying, 'Come on, what's wrong with getting that information out in the open,' but now I think everyone realizes that we've got sources and methods to protect. That's the new world."

**GRAPHIC:** PHOTO: Vice President Dick Cheney conveyed President Bush's displeasure to a pair of key lawmakers. PHOTOGRAPHER: Associated Press

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*The New York Times, June 21, 2002*

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June 21, 2002, Friday, Late Edition - Final

**SECTION:** Section A; Page 17; Column 6; National Desk

**LENGTH:** 771 words

**HEADLINE:** TRACES OF TERROR: THE HEARINGS;  
Investigators In Congress Want Inquiry Of Themselves

**BYLINE:** By ALISON MITCHELL

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 20

**BODY:**

The leaders of a joint Congressional inquiry into the **Sept. 11** attacks asked the Justice Department today to investigate their panel, after Vice President Dick Cheney complained that sensitive information had been improperly disclosed.

The four lawmakers also said that the panel would delay the start of its public hearings, which had been set to begin next week, until next month at the earliest. "We are very concerned about **leaks** at any time," said Representative Porter J. **Goss**, the Florida Republican who is chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a co-chairman of the joint panel. "We carry a very heavy responsibility to handle all classified information properly, especially when we're at war."

Flanked by the other leaders of the two Congressional intelligence committees, he said the group had asked Attorney General John Ashcroft to see if Congressional sources were improperly releasing classified information. Mr. **Goss** added that the joint committee would cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation "in any way possible."

The request means that the F.B.I. is to investigate a committee looking into possible intelligence lapses by the bureau.

The request for an investigation was prompted by news accounts that the National Security Agency had intercepted two cryptic communications on **Sept. 10** referring to a major event to take place the next day.

The intercepted discussions were not translated and reviewed by agency analysts until **Sept. 12**. One **Sept. 10** conversation said "the big match" was scheduled for the next day; a second message referred to **Sept. 11** as "zero hour."

The disclosures were the latest sign that though United States intelligence agencies had acquired an array of clues about the **Sept. 11** plot, they were unable to assemble them.

The information about the **Sept. 10** intercepts was disclosed after Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, the director of the National Security Agency, and other intelligence officials testified before



the joint committee this week in hearings closed to the public.

Ari Fleischer, the White House press secretary, said President Bush had told Mr. Cheney to relay his concerns about unauthorized disclosures to the committee.

"The president does have very deep concerns about anything that would be inappropriately leaked that could in any way endanger America's ability to gather intelligence information," Mr. Fleischer said.

He said that in 1998, an unauthorized disclosure of intelligence information led Osama bin Laden to stop using a satellite phone that the United States had been able to monitor. "We never again heard from that satellite phone," Mr. Fleischer said.

Mr. Fleischer said he was confident the disclosures had not come from the administration.

This afternoon, Senator Bob **Graham**, the Florida Democrat who is chairman of the Senate intelligence panel and the joint committee's other co-chairman, said he had spoken with Mr. Cheney. "The vice president was not a happy man," he said.

In a statement tonight, the Justice Department said it would "expeditiously review this matter and take any appropriate action."

The White House has fended off Democratic calls for an independent inquiry into intelligence and policy failures leading to **Sept. 11**. Instead, it has chosen to work with the Congressional intelligence committees, arguing that they have long experience handling sensitive information.

The **leak** investigation is another setback for the joint committee, which has had internal differences about the pace of the inquiry, about how to conduct public hearings and about the preparedness of its staff.

The lawmakers said that Mr. Cheney had not sought an F.B.I. investigation, and that the committee's leaders had decided themselves to turn to Mr. Ashcroft.

Asked if lawmakers would be open to interviews and polygraph tests conducted by the bureau, Mr. **Goss** said, "We will cooperate with the F.B.I. in every way possible."

Asked if journalists should be questioned about sources, he said, "It is useful for reporters to cooperate with people who are conducting bona fide investigations, if they do truly affect national security."

The lawmakers said the **leak** or investigation had not caused the delay in public hearings. Staff members, they said, needed more time to review material and testimony that the committee gathered this week.

Some members of the joint committee have expressed concern that they were moving too fast and risked opening public hearings before they knew exactly what information they ought to seek from top intelligence officials. <http://www.nytimes.com>

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June 21, 2002, Friday, Final Edition

**SECTION:** A SECTION; Pg. A12**LENGTH:** 975 words**HEADLINE:** Cheney Blames **Leaks** on Congress; Intelligence Chairmen Request Justice Investigation**BYLINE:** Mike Allen and Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post Staff Writers**BODY:**

Vice President Cheney chastised the House and Senate intelligence committees yesterday about **leaks** of classified information, and the panels' chairmen responded by requesting a Justice Department investigation into the disclosures.

The chairmen, Sen. Bob **Graham** (D-Fla.) and Rep. Porter J. **Goss** (R-Fla.), took responsibility for the **leaks** after Cheney complained in separate telephone calls to them about news stories reporting that the National Security Agency intercepted two messages on the eve of **Sept. 11** suggesting something would happen the following day but had not translated them until **Sept. 12**.

Bush administration officials said the disclosure may be a federal crime. White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the information was "alarmingly specific." He said President Bush had deep concerns about "anything that could harm our ability to maintain sources and methods, and anything that could interfere with America's ability to fight the war on terrorism." The White House has complained about national security **leaks** from Congress since the war on terrorism began. After one disclosure in October, Bush instituted a policy -- quickly rescinded after complaints from lawmakers -- that the administration would provide Capitol Hill briefings on the war only to the Republican and Democratic leaders and the four senior members of the intelligence committees.

Experts in electronic surveillance said the information about the NSA's **Sept. 10** intercepts contained nothing harmful to national security. They said the **leak** did not reveal, for example, the source of the information or the methods used to gather it.

Nevertheless, **Graham**, describing Cheney as "not a happy man," told reporters that the information should not have been disclosed. "We're all under the same responsibility to protect sensitive information which affects the security of the United States," he said.



The NSA, one of the most secretive agencies in the U.S. intelligence apparatus, is responsible for intercepting and analyzing electronic messages.

The administration has suffered a string of revelations about failures by the FBI and CIA to integrate bits of information that preceded the attacks. The NSA intercepts were disclosed Wednesday, the day after they were discussed during a closed meeting of the House-Senate committee looking into the intelligence agencies' performance before and after **Sept. 11**.

CNN, which broke the story, cited "two congressional sources" for the information. The Washington Post and other news organizations cited U.S. intelligence officials in quoting the Arabic messages' translation: "The match is about to begin" and "Tomorrow is zero hour."

The joint intelligence panel plans to prepare recommendations for improving the intelligence system after hearing testimony this summer in closed and public sessions. It faces the considerable challenge of controlling secrets that are shared with the committees' 37 members and are available to many of the committees' dozens of staffers.

By issuing a stern, public warning yesterday, the White House appeared to be trying to squelch possible additional **leaks** of information it deems a threat to national security. A senior administration official said one of the White House's chief concerns was whether information from future witnesses would also become public. "What's the CIA and the FBI to think other than their information will get turned into news releases?" the official said.

Lawmakers said they were embarrassed that Cheney felt compelled to upbraid them over this week's revelations. **Goss**, the House intelligence committee chairman and a former CIA official, said he "felt very chagrined to receive a call from the vice president of the United States" on the matter.

The chairmen requested an investigation in a letter to Attorney General John D. Ashcroft.

Justice Department spokeswoman Barbara Comstock said in a statement: "We appreciate the gravity of the national security concerns raised by this referral and the appropriate department officials will expeditiously review this matter and take any appropriate action."

The intelligence chairmen -- joined at a news conference by the ranking minority members of the committee, Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) -- said they were discussing how to inform the public while protecting critical information.

"The American people need to know about the shortcomings of our intelligence information," Shelby said, adding they should hear about "good things" as well.

But **Goss** warned that each time members of Congress make public pronouncements, "we are also speaking to the terrorists. They, too, are listening."

As if to underscore this point, the four leaders announced they would seek to address reporters as a group rather than have individual conversations with them, an unusual move for lawmakers.

The lawmakers said the panel would postpone public hearings, scheduled to begin Tuesday, until after July 4. The leaders said they were still seeking to assemble the necessary documents and declassify some information.

**Graham** said the committee was conferring with the Justice Department on whether revealing certain documents would interfere with the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui, who is charged with conspiracy in connection with the attacks.



Intelligence officials and members of Congress said the **Sept.** 10 intercept did not provide information that could have been used to prevent the attacks. Also, the cryptic phrases used indicate that the subjects believed they were being monitored and needed to speak in code, analysts said.

"This was not a hugely sensitive intercept," said Jeffrey T. Richelson, an authority on U.S. intelligence agencies.

Staff writer Dana Priest contributed to this report.

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Los Angeles Times**July 26, 2002 Friday** Home Edition**SECTION:** Main News Main News; Part 1; Page 14; National Desk**LENGTH:** 846 words**HEADLINE:** THE NATION;

House OKs Panel to Probe Spy Agency Failures;

Congress: Huge intelligence spending bill includes independent probe of **Sept.** 11-related actions.**BYLINE:** GREG MILLER, TIMES STAFF WRITER**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON**BODY:**

The House voted Thursday to create an independent commission to examine intelligence failures surrounding the **Sept.** 11 attacks, a move adamantly opposed by the White House and Republican leaders in Congress.

The plan was passed as an amendment to an intelligence spending bill that calls for an enormous increase in funding for the nation's spy agencies, including the CIA and National Security Agency.

The proposal for the commission, which appears to face an uphill path in the Senate, is more limited in scope than Democrats had sought. It does not, for example, allow for an investigation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service or other non-intelligence agencies. Even so, passage was a surprise success for Democrats in the GOP-controlled House and puts new pressure on President Bush to rethink his opposition to an independent review.

"He could and should do this when 3,000 people are killed in our homeland," said Rep. Tim Roemer (D-Ind.), sponsor of the provision calling for the creation of an independent commission.

The bill would expand intelligence spending by about 25%, according to a senior House Democratic aide. Precise budget figures for the nation's 13 intelligence agencies are classified, but are believed to total from \$30 billion to \$35 billion.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said the boost in funding amounts to the largest annual percentage increase in two decades. And Rep. Porter J. **Goss** (R-Fla.) called it "the most significant investment" in the intelligence community in years.

The so-called intelligence authorization bill, a broad spending plan for the coming fiscal year, was passed on a voice vote, meaning there was no roll call.



But while Congress is clearly in the mood to lavish money on the intelligence community, Thursday's vote on Roemer's amendment exposed deep divisions over how much additional scrutiny the nation's spy agencies should face.

The amendment passed 219 to 188, with 193 Democrats and 25 Republicans voting in favor of creating a National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

The amendment was opposed by **Goss** and other Republicans, who argued that a separate inquiry is unnecessary when the House and Senate intelligence committees are already working on such a probe, expected to last into next year.

The White House also has resisted the idea, saying the burden of complying with another inquiry could distract intelligence officials already working overtime to track down Al Qaeda operatives around the globe and detect new terrorist plots.

Earlier this year, Vice President Dick Cheney sought an informal deal with congressional leaders, promising full administration cooperation with an inquiry but asking leaders to confine the inquiry to the congressional committees.

But supporters of an independent investigation say that few events in the nation's history warrant more careful examination than the **Sept. 11** attacks and that the matter deserves to be probed by a panel removed from the partisan politics of Capitol Hill and artificial congressional deadlines.

Lawmakers leading the Capitol Hill inquiry of **Sept. 11**, for example, are scheduled to finish their terms on the intelligence committees at the end of this year, putting pressure on the joint inquiry to complete its work quickly.

House Republicans were able to whittle away at the scope of the independent commission by raising procedural objections. Roemer was forced, for instance, to abandon provisions calling for the commission to examine the INS, the Customs Service and other government agencies.

Prospects for an independent commission remain uncertain in the Senate. Sens. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) have introduced a bill calling for a blue-ribbon panel to probe several government agencies in connection with **Sept. 11**.

A spokeswoman for Lieberman said the senator viewed Thursday's vote in the House as an encouraging sign. "It's much more narrow than the senator has introduced and proposed," she said. "But it gives the bill a lot of momentum."

But the legislation faces Republican opposition and lukewarm support from some Democrats. A Senate Democratic leadership aide said the Lieberman-McCain bill does not appear to have the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster.

The more narrowly focused commission approved by the House would attract even less support in the Senate, the aide said, because "it's a review of what the intelligence committee is already reviewing."

Roemer, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, disputed that, saying the independent commission could build on the work of congressional investigators and could tap outsiders with different areas of expertise.

The Senate is expected to take up its version of the intelligence authorization bill next week. Sen. Bob **Graham** (D-Fla.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he knew of

no plans in the Senate for an amendment calling for an independent commission.

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