



Remarks by Congressman Lee H. Hamilton

Bipartisan Policy Center – State of Intelligence Reform Conference

**Willard InterContinental Washington
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Video of this event is available online at www.dni.gov/video.

MR. JASON GRUMET: Good morning, folks. We are going to get the program underway. If I can ask you to grab a seat. I've been reminded that the universal requirement to silence all cell phones, so by holding meetings in windowless basements, we try to do our best to actually cut you off from the rest of the world.

Good morning, everybody, I'm Jason Grumet. I'm the president of the Bipartisan Policy Center. On behalf of our fore-founders, former Senate majority leaders Tom Daschle, Bob Dole, Howard Baker and George Mitchell, real pleasure to welcome you here this morning to this, I think, important discussion on the state of intelligence reform.

The BPC – Bipartisan Policy Center – was founded about three years ago based on the relatively simple idea that despite all of the forces that are pulling us towards the rancorous edges, there are still rooms like this – people of good will, partisans of good will – who are interested in coming together to hash out and try to develop shared ideas and shared solutions to some of our nation's toughest problems.

In addition to trying to put together those detailed policy ideas, we also take the next step of asking the people who work with us to aggressively advocate for those ideas both inside government and out. And we are in the midst now of several different policy areas. We are working on energy and climate change. We have a taskforce working together on Iran. We have a project on transportation policy, a group that's just stood up on the small issue of the national debt.

And we are most gratified to be here with you all today talking about intelligence reform when Governor Kean and Congressman Hamilton a year or so ago asked if they could continue their work on behalf of the 9/11 Commission at the Bipartisan Policy Center, we were obviously thrilled.

And we've been most fortunate to have Michael Allen, who many of you know, leading our National Security Preparedness Group, which is focusing on a host of the issues that we will be discussing here today. So with that, I really have the pleasure of welcoming someone who I know is known to you all. Congressman Hamilton, do you want to kick us off?

CONGRESSMAN LEE H. HAMILTON: Thank you very much, Jason. Good morning to all of you. Thank you very much for coming to this state of intelligence reform conference. Tom Kean and I are delighted to have each one of you here. The remarkable turnout this morning for this conference is certainly evidence of the interest, I think, and the importance of the topic that we're going to address.

I want to thank Jason Grumet and his colleagues at the Bipartisan Policy Center. It's been an extraordinary privilege for us to work with them and they've been supportive in many, many different ways. Their whole mission is to foster an atmosphere where bipartisan cooperation can occur. And I think all of us who know this town pretty well would say that's a mighty important mission.

There's no area where this is more important than in national security. And no area in national security where it's more important than intelligence. Tom Kean and I are pleased to be associated with the Bipartisan Policy Center. Our National Security Preparedness Group is an independent group focused on helping improve the security of the nation at home and abroad. We strive to be helpful to our nation's national security policymakers and to promote a bipartisan approach to this task.

The members of that group, I'll just read their names because it's an extraordinary group of people. Two of them will be participating today: Fran Townsend and John Gannon. But it includes Ed Meese and Tom Ridge, Richard Thornburgh, Dave McCurdy, Jim Turner, Peter Bergen, Bruce Hoffman, Spence Abraham and Stephen Flynn. Together, all of us are pleased to host this conference today to discuss the status of intelligence reform.

It's now been five years since John Negroponte was sworn in as our first Director of National Intelligence. And it is thus an appropriate time to look at the record of the DNI, the NCTC and other groups. Tom and I in that 9/11 Commission report recommended, of course, the establishment of the DNI and we are supporters of it and believe its success, the office, is critical to our national security.

The purpose of this conference is to ask whether we have made progress in intelligence reform, whether we as a nation are safer because of it and what needs to be done to ensure its success. We've assembled, I think, a remarkable group of experts. I want to thank each one of them as they will be participating this morning.

Congresswoman Jane Harman, who was one of the key players on the Hill in helping write the Intelligence Reform Act. Adm. Blair will be with us a little later, the Director of National Intelligence. Adm. McConnell, former Director of National Intelligence. Gen. Mike Hayden, who served, of course, in a variety of intelligence capacities, including as the first [Principal] Deputy Director of National Intelligence and CIA director.

Fran Townsend, who in the White House helped shape President Bush's legislative proposals to create a DNI. John McLaughlin, former deputy director of the CIA. Steve Cambone, former undersecretary of defense, who handled defense intelligence matters for the secretary.

Walter Pincus has an article this morning – many of you have read it already in the post – on intelligence reform. He’s covered those issues for many years for The Washington Post. And John Gannon, former deputy director of CIA for intelligence. I don’t see how you could put together a better group on intelligence reform.

I want to thank and introduce our first speaker, David Shedd. David has played a leading role in intelligence issues throughout his career in the CIA and especially in the last six years, where he has served as senior director for intelligence at the National Security Council, where he helped shape the Intelligence Reform Act and at the Office of the DNI, where he has served since its inception, first as the DNI’s chief of staff and now as the deputy director for policy.

From 1984 to 1993, he was posted overseas in the U.S. embassies in Costa Rica and Mexico. Has a bachelor’s degree from Geneva College, a master’s degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service. Please join me in welcoming David Shedd. Thank you. (Applause.)

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