

The executive branch suffers from a tendency toward over classification which, especially in the area of intelligence, diminishes Congress' ability to effectively oversee budget and policy decisions. I hope that the procedures through which information is classified will be streamlined. Additionally, we must accelerate the pace of review for declassification of information already classified. As part of these efforts, I strongly encourage the administration to reconsider its decision to maintain the classification of titles and positions in the matter of concern to the Joint Inquiry.

The Joint Inquiry focused almost totally, given the jurisdiction of the two committees, on the September 11-related activities of the intelligence agencies. Although these agencies have significant responsibilities on security issues, and terrorism issues specifically, those responsibilities are not exclusive in either area. To understand fully how the September 11 attacks were successfully conducted requires a look well beyond the borders of the intelligence community. Issues like the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and airline security; the manner in which visa applications are reviewed; the procedures used to grant entry into the United States at points of entry, as well as those used to monitor our borders; and issues related to the security of our ports, particularly our ability to track the movement of cargo, all need to be scrutinized. A more thorough and comprehensive look at the September 11 attacks, and ways to prevent attacks in the future, needs to be done. I am hopeful that the recently established national commission will complete that job.

The Joint Inquiry would have benefited greatly, in my judgment, had it been able to hear directly from the most senior national security officials in the current administration. For various reasons, the Secretaries of State and Defense, the Attorney General, and the National Security Advisor were not questioned directly about issues related to the September 11 attacks. I do not believe that the record of the national commission will be complete unless this shortcoming is addressed.

I agree with those who urge a more exhaustive investigation of the means through which the September 11 hijackers were supported financially while they were planning and training for the attacks. Money combines with ideology to form the lifeblood of terrorism. Shutting off the