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Subject: Re: Patriot Act Renewal rejected by the Senate  
Posted by [DreamWraith](#) on Fri, 23 Dec 2005 11:10:00 GMT  
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runewood wrote on Thu, 22 December 2005 22:19Nukelt15 wrote on Tue, 20 December 2005 21:19Quote:It doesn't matter if the people are Complacent, as long as the gov has what it needs they can fight it. When they don't have what they need then we get screwed. We forget that we need these sacrifices in order to be safe. People wont know that again till there is another attack. When those people die I will have no pity because WE did it to them.

See, here's the problem... the more power you give to the bureaucracy, the more power they'll claim they need. It just isn't as easy as saying "here, you can do whatever you need to" because they'll take it one step further and do whatever they want to. In government, that's a very, very bad thing. Basically, if you give the government the power to spy on any citizen they want to, the dominant party will be likely to use that newfound power to spy on political opponents.

Don't think that's likely? I turn your attention to Watergate. No matter how good and decent you may think your government is, most of the people who run it (and this goes for ALL branches and levels) are in those positions because they wanted the power and/or publicity. There are higher paying jobs out there; they intend to further an agenda. Now, they might do so keeping in mind what they think is in the best interests of the country, but the concerns of Joe Average American hardly figure in the daily goings-on of the government.

Which is precisely why the government needs to be watched, and watched carefully. Our founding fathers worded the Constitution the way they did specifically to put as much power in the hands of the PEOPLE as they possibly could. No matter how frequently governemnt officials are rotated out and replaced, there is always a danger that a large governing body could overstep its authority. A good many people believe that this has already happened, and that we (the people) have just looked past it as if nothing was wrong. Any breach of the public trust should not be tolerated.

I'm wondering...are you of voting age? Do you read into what your government does (that is, are you aware of the kind of legislation that gets passed/rejected, significant court rulings, executive actions, etc)? Often, a perfectly acceptable piece of legislation is used to pass a seperate, completely unrelated item as a footnote (in the hopes that nobody will read the whole thing). That little provision often pertains to expanded government powers, funneling additional funding to X, Y, or Z official's pet project (that would be pork-barrel spending), another piece of legislation which was previously rejected, etc. That happens all the time- with almost every bill. And it happens right under the noses of everybody; it is stuff which any citizen could look up and examine. The real question is this: if the government already gets away with so much in plain view of the public, then what's going on behind the scenes that we don't know about?

Never, ever, ever take anything for granted. This country was founded on the basis of lack of trust in authority. It would be a mistake to forget that...whether you agree or disagree with what the government does, you really should keep an eye on what, exactly, it is doing.

No I can't vote but im counting off the days. When I turn 18 thats all I care about. Im going to major in polotical science.

Yes, they do tack shit onto bills. The defense bill has Kitrena relief, defnese spending and ANWAR drilling on it.

Id rather the gov know what books i read then get on a bus and be blow to bits because that terrorist was protected from the CIA.

If the gov goes too far we have the locol millitias. Thats why we have the 2nd ammendment. The people DO have the power. The power to abolish the government. The power to petition the government for grivences. So don't feed out crap about a powerless, helpless american people.

i used to think like you. then i grew up.

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