

Eshoo Statement on Enhancing Intelligence Oversight

January 9, 2007

Eshoo Statement on Enhancing Intelligence Oversight

Authority

[Video]

January 9, 2007 | Video

Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-California, made the following statement on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives regarding H.Res. 35, which creates the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel as part of the Committee on Appropriations. Members chosen from the Intelligence Committee and the Appropriations Committee will serve on the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel.

"Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 35, and I believe that for all of us on both sides of the aisle that this is a moment of high responsibility.

"If there is anything that we became painfully aware of, it was that we did not have a seamless operation, intelligence operation, to help protect our country. So what we are debating and discussing here are not a handful of sentences. What we are doing is we are blending, for a very important reason, the power of the purse and the power of the policy. They can no longer stand as independent smokestacks, number one.

"Number two, I ask all of my colleagues of the House: Could the abuse and the corruption that was done unto the budget survive the scrutiny of what we are proposing here, where a member of the Intelligence Committee committed those crimes?

"So this is a moment of really high responsibility. I welcome ideas from both sides of the aisle. They are always

important. But I think the overriding principles here are really what have already been stated by so many, including the comments I'm making. As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I welcome, I welcome more oversight. The problem with intelligence relative to the Congress is there has been under-sight or no sight, and that is dangerous for our country.

"So I support these reforms. I think they are very important. It's a moment of high responsibility for the Congress, and I salute the Speaker as well as the chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction for bringing this much needed legislation before the House and I urge all of my colleagues to support it."

###