with known terrorists. If you call one of those people, you might expect that somebody might want to know about that. Or if they call you. In that case, I guess you might consider yourself vulnerable to the U.S. Government being interested in what you are doing talking to a terrorist. But we are not eavesdropping on American citizens.

The real question I ask is, where is the outrage with respect to the release of this classified information, disclosure of this highly classified program which, as the President noted this morning, can greatly degrade our intelligence capability and harm our ability to fight the war on terrorism? He was asked to give an example, and he did. He gave the example of how it used to be that we knew how Osama bin Laden was communicating. He was communicating pursuant to a certain device. Somebody leaked to media that we had the ability to intercept the communications from that particular device. Guess what? He stopped using it. He went underground, and we could no longer listen in to what he was saying. What he was saying beforehand was very helpful. Now we cannot hear anything.

The same thing is true here. Somebody, in order to hurt the administration, I gather, decided it would be a really dandy thing to leak to the public a highly sophisticated program used to gather information from terrorists, to help us protect the American people in the war on terrorism. Have you heard any condemnation of that on the Senate floor? Have you heard any condemnation of it in the mainstream media? No, they were very concerned when the identity of a CIA agent who is known anyway, I gather, was released. I guess that is high dudgeon. I have not heard a peep out of anybody in the mainstream media criticizing whoever it was that leaked this highly classified program, that is now out in the public domain.

Mr. President, this leaker has to be brought to justice, and the President this morning said he gathered that the usual processes in the Department of Justice to look after such things were in place and were being pursued. I certainly hope so because every time a leak such as this occurs, it degrades the country’s ability to protect the citizens of the United States. Whatever this collection methodology is and thankfully it hasn’t been described in much more detail, but whatever it is, we don’t want the other side to stop doing it or that is another avenue of information that is closed off to us.

So why would we want to make big public disclosure of all of this? At a minimum, when those of us in the Congress look into this further, as we surely will, we will need to do this in a classified setting. I wonder how much of that will remain classified. I wonder whether we are able to keep a secret around here.

If we are going to fight the war on terror, let’s remember, unless we want to fight it on the battlefields of Afghanistan or the streets of Baghdad, the best way to defeat the terrorists is through intelligence-gathering agencies. What that means is having the capability to find out what the other side is doing so we can try to stop it by infiltrating, destabilizing, compromising it in one way or another. That is critical to fighting the war on terror.

Intelligence is our main method of dealing with this war. If we keep compromising our people feel compelled to breach our national security, to violate the law because they want to bring information out that will embarrass the administration or that will affect the PATRIOT Act. Perhaps coincidence. But unless we are going to start objecting to that kind of behavior, it will not be able to stop it. Then we will wonder why our intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies were not better able to protect us when there is another attack.

I urge my colleagues, as well as the American people, to consider the losses we will suffer as a result of this kind of behavior and to try to bring to account those who engage in this kind of behavior, not to condone it.

We in the Congress will do everything we can to make sure all authorities are used legally. The President can be assured of that. But in the meantime, it seems to me we ought to feel a little bit more secure that we have great capabilities collecting intelligence, and we need the ability to do that in order to protect the American people.

I hope we will have another opportunity to take a vote on the PATRIOT Act, that we can extend it, we can reauthorize it, or be used to protect the American people from this evil of terrorism that we face.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Chafee). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for such time as I use.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE PATRIOT ACT AND DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I listened carefully, as others have, to the distinguis hed arguments. I guess we certainly all agree with his last statement about dealing with the evil of terrorism. We are all united in that effort, and all of us are pledged to do so according to the resolution we passed in the aftermath of 9/11, giving the President the tools to fight terror and authority to respond to those attacks. We are united in our efforts to deal with terrorism.

What we are not evidently as united on is our efforts to protect the Constitution of the United States of America, to protect the rights of individual Americans. On that there is a division between the House and the Senate.

I remind my colleague from Arizona, I think it was a couple of hours ago when he was talking about this subject, that he talked about how we don’t want to see the PATRIOT Act further reauthorized in other words implying that if we go back to what we passed in the Senate unanimously, we would somehow be degrading the PATRIOT Act. We were admonished not to ‘‘hide behind the filibuster,’’ that somehow people are hiding behind the filibuster which is the same thing as voting against the PATRIOT Act.

With all due respect, I never heard a more absurd or insulting argument to the rules of the Senate and to the nature of a filibuster. In the 21 years I have been here, I have seen Jesse Helms and countless others stand up on the other side, in the minority or otherwise, and employ the rules of the Senate which allow a little bit longer to consider issues. That is always what has separated us from the House and, indeed, which has provided a measure of safety with respect to the legislation we pass for the country.

The fact is that what he has termed degrading the PATRIOT Act for many of us is protecting the PATRIOT Act, protecting the Constitution, protecting the country, protecting individual citizens. The fact is that the Senate unanimously passed a PATRIOT Act that went over to the House with adequate, better protections for the citizens of our country.

Let me be more specific about that for a minute, if I may, and I didn’t intend to speak about the PATRIOT Act. I intended to talk about this morass we find ourselves in with respect to the Defense appropriations bill and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and I was going to talk about that in a minute. But I want to talk about the PATRIOT Act for a minute.

Every single one of us in the Senate joined together a few months ago—in July, I think, precisely—to unanimously allow the PATRIOT Act to be passed. We supported the PATRIOT Act, and we supported it because we know we need to give the President the tools to fight terror and it would be irresponsible of us to do otherwise not to do things in the current threat we face to respond appropriately. But we also have an obligation to protect the privacy rights of Americans.

Americans all across this country increasingly are concerned about medical records that find their way into the public sector, financial records that are lost, banking records that turn up in public, about the theft of identity, Social Security numbers that are stolen. The constant invasion on the privacy of Americans is something that ought to concern all of us, and there ought to be a balance as we fight terror.
Sure, we all want to take the maximum steps possible in order to prevent another act of terrorism. Who here in their right mind isn’t going to do what is reasonable to prevent another 9/11? This is almost an absurd argument. It is the traditional sort of let’s create a wedge, drive a big wedge between the American people and pretend to the American people the argument is about something that it isn’t, pretend to the American people that everybody from this line in the United States over doesn’t care about the security of their country and pretend that the only people who do are over there. It is ridiculous on its face. It is an insult to the American people.

We ought to be doing everything in our power to guarantee we don’t engage in those kinds of silly arguments, particularly when we are stuck here 5 days before Christmas Eve struggling over reasonableness and then we have a whole bunch of unreasonably, classically, wedge-driving issues.

If the same PATRIOT bill was on the floor today that we sent off the floor, every Senator would vote for it. But it is not, and we are being told that somehow we have to rush to judgment and give a lot of people a lot of things that we think are important and worth fighting for because the House insists they have a couple of provisions that were not in our bill.

Look at those provisions. The fact is the House, the Senate from Arizona was talking about—here is what it allows. It allows the Government to obtain library, medical, gun records, and other sensitive personal information on a mere showing that those records are relevant to an authorized intelligence investigation. That is it. That is all it requires.

In the Senate bill, we passed an additional test.

We said it has to be relevant, but in addition to being relevant we specifically put in the word “and.” It has to be relevant, and one of the three following things has to be shown: It has to pertain to a foreign power or agent of a foreign power; it has to be relevant to the activities of a suspected agent of a foreign power, or it has to be pertinent to a particular effort that is taken against a foreign power. Those are the three tests which we added to the relevancy test. We did that specifically because we thought we ought to protect the rights of Americans.

The fact is that requiring it to be pertaining to an individual who is in contact with a foreign government is a specific test that requires either to go further than mere relevancy. It requires the Government to have a case that is legitimate to be able to go in and invade those kinds of rights.

Every Member of the Senate decided that was a worthy test and, unfortunately, that test was dropped. So our small change will actually allow the potential invasion of the privacy of American citizens who may have no connection at all to a suspected terrorist or spy. We think that is an important restriction. That is what we are fighting about. We are not fighting about having a PATRIOT Act; we are fighting about having the rights of Americans protected.

In addition, unlike the Senate bill, the House report provides absolutely no mechanism for the recipient of a 215 order. In other words, if someone has received a 215 order and it is sent to them notifying them with respect to the request for that information, they do not have the power to challenge an automatic gag order on that particular requirement.

So the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act’s court review is not sufficient. We do not think it provides adequate protection to an American. The court only has the power to review the underlying order; that is, to say whether the order was appropriately issued. They do not have the right to review whether that person has a right to speak about the order that they have received. How is that fair? How is that consistent with American democratic principles?

The conference report also does not provide judicial review of national security letters. The Senate bill did provide judicial review, and we believe judicial review is important. So what we are fighting for is not whether to have a PATRIOT Act; what we are fighting over is whether to have a PATRIOT Act that keeps faith with the Constitution that we all swore to uphold and with our interpretation of the legitimate limits of intrusion on the rights of Americans. That is what we are fighting for.

I would also mention that there are sneaky, sneak search warrants in the conference report. Unlike the Senate bill, the conference report does not include any protections against those warrants. So rather than requiring the Government to notify the target of those warrants within 7 days, as the Senate bill did, the conference report requires notification within 30 days. Now, that is a long time to go—7 days is a long time to go, but 30 days is a really long time to go before one is notified of a Government search.

That is just a few of the problems. Let us repeat—because again it is part of the game that is played—it is not a good game. A lot of folks on the other side of the aisle are trying to suggest, Well, America, there are a bunch of folks who are strong on defense and people who are weak; there are a bunch of folks who want to protect the Constitution and those who do not.

Let me say something. This is not about that. If it were, we would have passed the 3-month extension of the PATRIOT Act right away. On several different occasions, Senator REID has asked the Senate to proceed. We do not have to waste 1 day, not 1 hour, not 1 minute without a PATRIOT Act. We could extend the PATRIOT Act for 3 months right away, do it this afternoon, this evening, and then we could actually sit down and work out the differences and provide the protections which people think are worth fighting for.

So this whole debate is just part of a larger breakdown in the Senate. The shame of what is happening with the Defense appropriation bill is that this entire debate is unnecessary, and it is also inappropriate. The fact is that the Arctic Wildlife Refuge drilling was put on the budget bill by breaking the budget rules. Everybody here knows that. The budget rules were changed so that drilling could be put on the bill because they were unable to muster enough votes to do it under the normal procedures of the Senate.

Then some courageous Republicans in the Senate stood up and said: This is wrong; we are not going to go along with this. All of a sudden, the first breaking-of-the-rules route was found to be unacceptable. So what is the response? To accept the rules of the Congress. They are trying to go along with the will of the Congress? Oh, no, no, that we have to go find another way to break the rules. We have to go find another way to reinterpret it. So when the Parliamentary rules that something is not legitimate within this bill, as the rules of the Senate say it ought to be, they are going to go ahead and try to vote and say: Oh, yes, it is, we overrule the Chair, change the rules. If one does not like the rules the way they are, they change them. How many kids in American schools are taught that is the way to play? How many families teach their kids in America that what one does is break the rules if they do not like them? How many institutions in this country would get along if that is the way it is played?

The example we set is bigger than what happens on this floor or what happens to Alaska and to the oil drilling. The fact is that what is happening is, make no mistake about it, right on the Senate floor, Republicans are putting oil companies ahead of troops. They are putting oil companies ahead of the Defense bill. They are trying to hold a whole bunch of Senators hostage to the very arguments we are hearing about whether one is for defense or against defense.

My colleague, Senator LIEBERMAN, who earlier joined us at a press conference, made it very clear there is nobody with a stronger defense record in the Senate, but he is not going to stand up and be pushed around that way and be put in a corner that suggests that he does not stand for defense, and nor should any other Senator. This is wrong. It is wrong for the Senate. It is wrong for the country. It is the wrong example.

The fact is that this Defense bill could have been passed months ago.
But who held it up? Do my colleagues know what held it up? What held it up was a President and a Vice President of the United States who were lobbying for torture. For months, they wanted to have the right to be able to finesse the rules and say that torture is permitted under certain circumstances. It took a Republican Senator, Mr. MCCAIN, to stand up and say that what is wrong, that is not in the interest of our troops, and that is not in the interest of our country. So the Defense bill was held up for almost 3 months because folks on the other side thought we ought to torture. Now here we are holding it up because they have attached to it drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

I will state what the Military Officers Association thinks of that: There is a possibility that negotiators might try to include a provision allowing oil drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. We are concerned that this is the military's last line of defense. We are concerned that the national defense bill is urgently needed to support our military efforts. Congress is already 3 months late passing them and needs to get off the dime. We do need to get off the dime, but it is not just the Military Officers Association that has weighed in. Yesterday, a group of five high-profile military officials sent the following letter to the Senate, which I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEAR SENATOR FRIED AND SENATOR REID: We are very concerned that FY2006 Defense Appropriations Bill may be further delayed by attaching a controversial non-defense legislative provision to the defense appropriations report.

We know that you share our overarching concern for the welfare and needs of our troops. With 160,000 troops fighting in Iraq, another 18,000 in Afghanistan, and tens of thousands more around the world defending this country, Congress must finish its work and provide them the resources they need to do their job.

We believe that any effort to attach controversial legislative language authorizing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to the defense appropriations conference report will jeopardize Congress’ ability to provide our troops and their families the resources they need in a timely fashion.

The passion and energy of the debate about drilling in ANWR is well known, and a testament to vibrant debate in our democracy. But it is not helpful to attach such a controversial non-defense legislative issue to a defense appropriations bill. It only introduces delay for our troops as Congress debates an important but controversial non-defense issue on a vital bill providing critical funding for our nation’s security.

We urge you to keep ANWR off the defense appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH P. HOAR
General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
the flow of oil from the refuge is going to start to decline as the reserves are depleted.

Also, this is a phony argument that we need to somehow be doing this now. It has nothing to do with the immediate security of our country. The fact is, 95 percent of the Alaska oil shelf is open for drilling/leasing today—95 percent of it. There are vast areas of that shelf that are open that are still not leased, still not producing. In addition, we have the largest oilfield in the world that is unexploited, which is in the Gulf of Mexico, the deepwater drilling of the Gulf of Mexico. Those leases have already been granted. They have already been environmentally permitted, but they are not being drilled. Why? Because the price differential thus far has not brought people to do that.

If we want to do something for immediate American help, provide a subsidy, provide some assistance, do something that enhances security so that this taking place now. That would have far more effect than what is happening in this Alaska argument.

The bottom line: I said it again and again everywhere. I went over the course of almost 2 years during the Presidential race. Every time I had a chance, I talked about how we only have 3 percent of the world’s oil reserves. That is all we have in America—3 percent. The Saudis have 46 percent. The Middle East has 65 percent. There is absolutely nothing the United States of America can do to drill our way out of our predicament—our dependence on oil. We have to invent our way out of it, and inventing our way out of it means moving to alternative fuels, means pushing the curve of discovery, doing what America has always done in terms of creation of new jobs and new technologies. That is why it is a phony argument. That is the bottom line: We don’t have to be pushing to do this on a defense bill which is important to our troops and to our country.

My hope is that in the next hours perhaps we can get a measure of reasonableness. But the bottom line still remains the same. There are people who believe deeply in drilling. I understand that. I respect that, and they can talk about that belief. That it not what this vote is about.

When this vote is about, in the end, is whether this effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ought to be allowed to circumvent the rules of the Senate and whether this is the message we want to send about the rules and how this Senate works; that nothing meaningful changes aound here as long as you can change it whenever you want. We have to remember that what goes around comes around. I don’t think it is good for the Senate. I don’t think this is good for this institution. I don’t think it is good for a majority or a minority, one of which may be the other any day in the future, and regret this kind of this kind of effort.

When we stand up for the rules, we stand up for the Constitution, and we stand up for what this Constitution gives to us as an individual responsibility—each and every one of us. And when we break the rules, we send a damaging, dangerous message to our country that looks to this place—ostensibly used to look here anyway—for leadership.

When you read the polls today about where the Congress is and the esteem of the American people, you ought to think twice about whether this is the way to proceed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DeMINT). The Senator from Alabama.

PATRIOT ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share some thoughts about the PATRIOT Act and the situation we find ourselves in now. With this legislation that we passed 4 years ago that expired December 31. This legislation that passed the Senate by a vote of 80-something, with one ‘no’ vote, all the rest of the Senate voted for it. It was made law, and we agreed to reauthorize it after 4 years. We have been involved in that process.

I wish to say this has not been a rushed-up deal. We have not gone into this without watching over it.

We have heard some of the Members may have forgotten—a host of committee hearings dealing with the PATRIOT Act. In fact, the numbers I have is that the Senate Judiciary Committee had 13 oversight hearings over the PATRIOT Act. The House Judiciary Committee had 12 oversight hearings this year alone dealing with the PATRIOT Act and our law enforcement against terrorism.

For example, I have a list of the hearings we held. On November 29, 2001, not long after the act passed there was a hearing entitled, “Department of Justice Oversight: Preserving Our Freedom While Defending Against Terrorism,” witness Michael Chertoff, then-Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Chief of the Criminal Division. He is now the Department of Homeland Security Secretary.

Also on that panel were William Barr, former Attorney General of the United States; James Barr Ames, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School; Griffin Bell, senior partner at King and Spalding, a former Attorney General of the United States under President Jimmy Carter; Scott Stillman, executive director of the Center for Law, Ethics and National Security at Duke University School of Law; Kate Martin, Director of the Center for National Security Studies; Neal Katyal, visiting professor, and Yale Law School professor of law at Georgetown University.

Also, in December of 2001, another hearing: “Department of Justice Oversight, Preserving Our Freedom While Defending Against Terrorism.” The primary witness was Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Oversight Hearings on Counterterrorism, June of the next year, witness list: Honorable Robert S. Mueller, III, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Honorable Glenn A. Fine, inspector general for the U.S. Department of Justice; Special Agent Coleen Crowley, chief division counsel for the FBI.

You remember she is the one who complained they did not listen to the evidence she had. And in fact, she made a lot of complaints. But if you boil it down to the bottom, the wall that had been put up, some of the rules and regulations and bureaucratic situations created by existing law at the time of 9/11, made it difficult for information to be shared. That has been fixed, in large part, by the PATRIOT Act and other acts since.

Another one on oversight: Department of Justice with the Attorney General himself; then another one in September of that year, “USA PATRIOT Act In Practice: Shedding Light on the FISA Process.”

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, “Court and Process,” had a hearing on all of that so your people understand it.

The Honorable David Kris, associate counsel, Department of Justice; Kenneth Bass, senior counsel with Sterne, Kessler, William Banks, professor of law at Syracuse; Morton Halperin, director of the Open Society Institute, a true civil libertarian, he had his day to be heard.

“Tools Against Terror” was another hearing. “How the Administration is Implementing the New Laws to Protect our Homeland”—oversight on how these laws are being carried out; Glenn Fine, the inspector general, testified; Scott Hastings, associate commissioner of the Office of Information Resources Management; Alice Fisher, Deputy Assistant Attorney General; Dennis Lormel, Chief of the Financial Crimes Section.

Another one: “War Against Terror: Working Together to Protect America.” Attorney General John Ashcroft; Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge; Honorable Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI.

We had them there to answer how we are working better with these new laws to protect America.

Another one, another oversight hearing: “Law Enforcement and Terrorism,” Honorable Robert Mueller, Director of the FBI; Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security.

Another one: We had a hearing in Utah with about 10 witnesses dealing with all of the issues related to homeland security.

Another one: “FBI Oversight, Terrorism of the Federal Bureau of Investigation: Terrorism and Other Topics”; Department of Homeland Security, “Oversight, Terrorism and Other Topics.”