

Databases selected: National Newspapers (5)

**Article View**

« [Back to Results](#) of 14 [Previous](#) Article 14 [Publisher Information](#)



Mark Article [Abstract](#) [Full Text](#)

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL****Senate Sends Antiterrorism Bill to Bush**

By [Jess Bravin](#) [Wall Street Journal](#). (Eastern edition). New York, N.Y.: [Oct 26, 2001](#). pg. A.3

[» Jump to full text](#)

Subjects: [Reforms](#), [Law enforcement](#), [National security](#), [Terrorism](#), [Federal legislation](#)  
 Locations: [United States](#), [US](#)  
 Author(s): [By Jess Bravin](#)  
 Article types: News  
 Publication title: [Wall Street Journal](#). (Eastern edition). New York, N.Y.: [Oct 26, 2001](#). pg. A.3  
 Source Type: Newspaper  
 ISSN/ISBN: 00999660  
 ProQuest document ID: 05949635  
 Text Word Count: 1083  
 Article URL: [http://gateway.proquest.com/openurl?url=ctx\\_ver=Z39.88-2003&res\\_id=xri:pd&rfi\\_val\\_fmt=ori:fmt:kev:mtx:journal&genre=article&rfi\\_id=xri:pdq:did=00000085949635&svc\\_dat=xri:pqi:fmt=text&req\\_dat=xri:pqi:pdq:did=31632](http://gateway.proquest.com/openurl?url=ctx_ver=Z39.88-2003&res_id=xri:pd&rfi_val_fmt=ori:fmt:kev:mtx:journal&genre=article&rfi_id=xri:pdq:did=00000085949635&svc_dat=xri:pqi:fmt=text&req_dat=xri:pqi:pdq:did=31632)

**More Like This** [» Show Options for finding similar articles](#)

**Abstract** (Article Summary)

The president is expected to sign the bill today, ending a monthlong wait for Attorney General John Ashcroft, who had asked Congress for the vast new powers days after the Sept. 11 hijackings. He argued that without expanded authority to investigate, detain and disrupt those suspected of terror and other crimes, the U.S. would lose the war on terrorism.

Mr. Ashcroft said that orders will go out today to the 94 U.S. attorney's offices and 56 Federal Bureau of Investigation field offices, aiming for "airtight surveillance" of suspects, starting with requests for "court orders to intercept communications related" to the expanded list of crimes now considered terror activity. Terrorists, he said, "live in our communities -- plotting, planning and waiting to kill Americans again."

Likewise, Mr. Ashcroft said, the Justice Department will use its new intelligence and detention powers to throw the book at those it thinks are linked to terror; if it can't develop enough evidence to charge them with a terror crime, agents will seek to get suspects through vigorous prosecution of any other crime, such as an immigration or tax violation, that they might have an easier chance to prove.

**Full Text** (1083 words)

Copyright Dow Jones & Company Inc Oct 26, 2001

WASHINGTON -- The Senate passed and sent to President Bush an antiterrorism bill that gives law-enforcement authorities sweeping new powers to track down and jail people suspected of plotting or committing terrorist acts.

The president is expected to sign the bill today, ending a monthlong wait for Attorney General John Ashcroft, who had asked Congress for the vast new powers days after the Sept. 11 hijackings. He argued that without expanded authority to investigate, detain and disrupt those suspected of terror and other crimes, the U.S. would lose the war on terrorism.

The new law sets aside procedural hurdles intended to keep federal agents from intruding too far into individual privacy. Congress wrangled over how far those powers should go and how long they should last, but after facing its own anthrax attack, it gave Mr. Ashcroft almost everything he wanted.

In a speech to the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Washington, Mr. Ashcroft declared that "a new era in America's fight against terror, made tragically necessary by the attacks of Sept. 11" will begin when Mr. Bush signs the measure today. That era of sweeping government surveillance and detention powers will last "many years in duration," the attorney general said.

The law, which Congress dubbed the **USA Patriot Act** (for Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism), passed the Senate 98-1 yesterday, after an earlier 357-66 vote in the House. But even though some of the new surveillance powers will expire in four years -- a concession to House members who feared the current climate didn't allow for thoughtful review of the bill -- critics still characterized it as victory for terrorists who hate American freedoms.

"There is no doubt that if we lived in a police state, it would be easier to catch terrorists," said Sen. Russ Feingold (D., Wis.), the Senate's sole dissenter. Such a country, he said, "would not be America."

With government agents now given greater rein to comb through business records and intercept communications, the law will mark "a fundamental change in our notions of privacy," said Jesse Choper, a constitutional-law professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "In the past, Congress has done much more in respect to privacy than the Constitution requires." But "we're under a serious attack," Mr. Choper said, and Congress is well within its power to pull back on individual rights when national security is at stake.

Mr. Ashcroft said that orders will go out today to the 94 U.S. attorney's offices and 56 Federal Bureau of Investigation field offices, aiming for "airtight surveillance" of suspects, starting with requests for "court orders to intercept communications related" to the expanded list of crimes now considered terror activity. Terrorists, he said, "live in our communities -- plotting, planning and waiting to kill Americans again."

With the new law, Mr. Ashcroft said, agents would collect "unopened voice mail stored on a computer, just as they traditionally have used search warrants to obtain unopened mail." Internet surveillance, he said, will capture credit-card and bank-account numbers and e-mail addresses that agents believe are linked to terrorists.

Already, Justice Department officials said, they have assembled reams of intelligence files they will hand over to law-enforcement agents the moment the bill is signed. Current law prohibits sharing those files -- collected under less-stringent standards than criminal wiretaps require -- with prosecutors.

"We'll be able to look at that from the law-enforcement side, and determine if there's a criminal case to be made," said a senior Justice Department official. "This unleashes us," he said, to use all the information at the government's disposal.

Officials wouldn't say how many cases or which suspects were involved, but said that "foreign, radical, fundamentalist groups" were among them. Some of that intelligence evidence, officials said, will likely be used against the 952 people detained in the sweep since Sept. 11, the vast majority of whom are still in custody for alleged immigration or criminal violations, or as material witnesses in federal criminal investigations.

Yesterday, lawmakers vowed that the **USA Patriot Act** is only an opening volley in their response to terrorism. House Democrats unveiled a \$7 billion proposal to fight bioterrorism, including \$1.4 billion for vaccines and treatments, and \$250 million to help the Postal Service safely handle tainted mail. Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D., Calif.) and Jon Kyl (R., Ariz.), meanwhile, announced legislation to tighten visa procedures and beef up border controls and monitoring of foreigners in the U.S.

Clearly aware of the criticism that liberties were being sacrificed for security, Mr. Ashcroft plucked an icon of liberals as the model for his new campaign. Forty years ago, he said, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy "launched an extraordinary campaign" against the mob, and "made no apologies for using all of the available resources in the law to disrupt and dismantle organized-crime networks."

Likewise, Mr. Ashcroft said, the Justice Department will use its new intelligence and detention powers to throw the book at those it thinks are linked to terror; if it can't develop enough evidence to charge them with a terror crime, agents will seek to get suspects through vigorous prosecution of any other crime, such as an immigration or tax violation, that they might have an easier chance to prove.

---

[Table]

Fighting Terrorism

Key provisions of antiterror bill headed to President Bush

TEMPORARY SURVEILLANCE POWERS\*

- Reduce court oversight for tapping phones, tracing e-mail, retrieving voice mail, tracking Web surfing
- Give FBI access to business, other records "to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities"
- Allow government to monitor "computer trespassers" on AOL etc. without court order

IMMIGRATION

- Allow detention of aliens suspected of terror activity for seven days without hearing
- Allow detention of aliens who are certified threats to national security
- Allow deportation of aliens who raise funds for terrorist organizations
- Restrict access of nonimmigrant aliens to biological agents and toxins

PERMANENT SURVEILLANCE POWERS

- Permit secret government searches with notice to owner after "reasonable" time
- Permit release of grand jury information to U.S. law enforcement, intelligence, immigration officers

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING

- Allow government to require foreign banks to reveal customers, transactions in certain conditions
- Require U.S. banks to monitor certain private accounts held by aliens

CIVIL LIBERTIES

- Allow individuals to sue government for unauthorized disclosure of certain data
- Establish Justice Department official to monitor civil liberties and report to Congress

\*Through Dec. 31, 2005

Credit: Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

[^ Back to Top](#)   [<< Back to Results](#)   [< Previous](#) Article 14 of 14   [Publisher Information](#)  
[Print](#)   [Mark Article](#)   [Abstract](#)   [Full Text](#)  
[Email](#)

Copyright © 2003 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)  
[Text-only interface](#)

From: **ProQuest**