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Subject: Re: Patriot Act Renewal rejected by the Senate

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Tue, 20 Dec 2005 21:58:14 GMT

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Quote:False sense is still better then mass fear.

Sadly, that is exactly the attitude which is going to allow the next terrorist attack. So the government enacted some new legislation- well, most folks haven't the foggiest idea about what it does, but it sounds like something that'll make them safer. Knowing that the government is ever-vigilant, we can all sleep soundly at night, right? Wrong! Complacency kills- quite a few people seem to have forgotten that confidence that terrorists were not a threat was precisely the reason why the 9/11 attacks were such a huge, tragic surprise.

Mass fear is bad, too, but either extreme ought to be avoided. Both are dangerous. Mass panic leads to mob rule, where innocent people are victimized for being perceived as similar to the source of a threat (this happened a number of times immediately post-9/11). Complacency, on the other hand, leads us to place too much faith in those who need to be under constant scrutiny (the government, that is).

Moderation is a skill which the majority of the human race just doesn't seem to have mastered... people are far more comfortable when they can claim to be right (to the exclusion of all possibility of doubt), no matter what. That is, to paraphrase a certain man whose name is familiar to most of the world: we can't (or won't) see past our own noses, yet are ever-ready to laugh at the blindness of others. Extremism isn't limited to fanatics wearing dynamite belts.