

THE KERRY LINE

Tuesday, March 9, 2004: 238 Days Remaining

“... in 1995, two years after the attack on the World Trade Center, my opponent introduced a bill to cut the overall intelligence budget by \$1.5 billion. His bill was so deeply irresponsible that he didn't have a single co-sponsor in the United States Senate.”

- President Bush

KERRY TRACKER

Tuesday:

Chicago, IL

(Forum on Prescription
Drugs: Kerry missed 36 of
38 votes)

Wednesday:

Washington, DC

Kerry: A Pattern of Intelligence Cuts

In 1995, John Kerry proposed S. 1290 to cut intelligence by \$1.5 billion saying his cuts targeted “programs which I consider to be pointless, wasteful, antiquated, or just plain silly.” Kerry went on to characterize the programs as “pork.” His proposal was so reckless it had no co-sponsors.

The Kerry campaign has tried a bait and switch, saying, “He voted against a proposed billion dollar bloat in the intelligence budget ...” The issue at hand is not a vote, but Kerry’s own proposal containing radical, across the board cuts to intelligence that Kerry likened to a “mink” subsidy. Kerry’s proposals to cut intelligence funding had nothing to do with reforming intelligence, and everything to do with his misguided attempts to weaken our ability to fight terrorism. No amount of rhetoric or spin can change Senator Kerry’s record.

The Kerry campaign has tried to explain away this proposal by pointing to voice votes, but the fact is that his cuts to intelligence are part of a pattern of seeking to gut intelligence, even in the face of terrorist threats.

In 1994, less than one year after the first attack on the World Trade Center, John Kerry proposed S. 1826, another bill that would offer blanket cuts to intelligence of \$1 billion and freeze intelligence budgets. Kerry characterized intelligence funding at the time as “pork-barrel boondoggles.”

Kerry on the Record: Cut Intelligence

- In 1994, less than a year after the first World Trade Center bombing, Kerry proposed bill S. 1826, cutting \$1 billion from the budgets of the National Foreign Intelligence Program and from Tactical Intelligence and Related Activities (TIARA), and freezing their budgets. The bill did not make it to a vote, but the language was later submitted as S. Amdt. 1452 to H.R. 3759. (S. 1826, Introduced 2/3/94)
- Kerry said of this proposal, “This proposal would achieve a radical reduction in the deficit without touching entitlements and without resorting to gimmicks. It would do so merely by cutting programs that are clearly pork-barrel boondoggles.”

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