

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Madam Speaker, May 30th, 2002 Attorney General John Ashcroft changed the guidelines established by Attorney General Edward Levi in 1976 to curb abuses by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), following revelations of an FBI "enemies list" in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

The Levi Guidelines were adopted after the Church Committee found that the FBI had developed over 500,000 domestic intelligence files on Americans and domestic groups and had clearly targeted investigations to disrupt the efforts of dissenters. This famed Committee detailed the disturbing extent to which the FBI had spied on Americans such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., former Navy officer Father Roy Bourgeois, and Holocaust survivor and grandmother Edith Bell, all of whom were peaceful protestors and advocates for their beliefs.

While the Levi guidelines ensured there was a justifiable criminal investigation and supervision of such investigations, the Ashcroft Guidelines have enabled the FBI to investigate groups and individuals whether or not there was evidence of criminal activity. The Levi Guidelines required that limited FBI investigations be instigated by facts or circumstances that reasonably indicate a federal crime has been, is being or will be committed. Under the Ashcroft Guidelines, we have even seen college students endure taxpayer funded FBI interrogations and investigations for simply placing irreverent posters up in their college communities. In one case, the FBI resorted to grilling a North Carolina college student about "un-American materials" in her apartment, such as a poster of George W. Bush holding a noose. It read, "We hang on your every word." While some may argue this is not in good taste, it is far from a potential act of terrorism.

The Ashcroft Guidelines have allowed the FBI to attend and begin to track those present in every public meeting, at every demonstration and visiting all internet chat rooms. Americans need to be able to meet and debate without fear that their associations and dissent will end up in an FBI database at every turn. By severing the tie between evidence of crime and initial FBI surveillance, the Ashcroft Guidelines fundamentally alter the role of the FBI in our society and ignore the very basis for adoption of the original Levi Guidelines.

My Resolution is simple. It calls on Congress to reinstate the Levi guidelines which provide better protections for ordinary Americans from unwarranted, domestic FBI spying, on this, the 6-year anniversary of the eradication of such critical guidelines. This will end domestic spying such as that documented by the Church Committee report, where there is no evidence of criminal activity, while ensuring that the FBI can investigate anyone as long as there is a rational

basis for doing so.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution urging that the Ashcroft Guidelines be replaced with a return to the Levi Guidelines.