Mr. Speaker, later on, my colleague from California

will make a motion to defeat the previous question, as the gentlewoman

from New Mexico (Mrs. Wilson) indicated. That will then enable us to

address a very serious issue, the problem that, right now, we are blind

and deaf to people who may want to attack the United States.

As Secretary Chertoff indicated earlier this week, all of the

indications are that we still remain very, very vulnerable. The

chatter, the signals, indicate more clearly that America is still at

risk. And it is not only the chatter. All you really need to do is take

a look at what al Qaeda says. They are clear on their intent to attack

the United States again.

Take a look at what happened in the U.K. 2 weeks ago. Planned attacks

in the heart of London, a planned attack at an airport indicate that al

Qaeda and radical jihadists want to attack the U.K.; they want to

attack in Europe, and they want to attack us in the United States.

One of the things that needs to be clear is that what has helped keep

us safe is our intelligence community. And as our ability to gain

information has changed and adapted over the last couple of years, it

has become even more clear that FISA needs to be updated, and FISA

needs to be updated now. It needs to be done before we go home in

August because if we expect to stay safe, we need to make sure that our

intelligence community has all of the tools at its disposal to identify

risks, to identify potential terrorists and to identify individuals who

want to do us harm.

FISA should not be used to protect international terrorists. It

should not be used to protect radical jihadists. It should not be used

as a screen to protect members of al Qaeda. Remember, FISA was designed

in the 1970s, designed to handle a Cold War surveillance of countries

like the Soviet Union. Back then and into the 1980s and early 1990s,

our intelligence community only needed to be one step faster than the

former Soviet Union. We didn't have to be that fast. And the risks and

the threats were not as real or as immediate to our homeland as what

they are today.

Today our intelligence community needs to be one, two, three steps

faster than radical jihadists, radical jihadists who use technology and

who use the Internet and who use the communications world of today to

drive their message and to plan their attacks. We need to be able to

penetrate into it and penetrate into it very effectively.

Now is the time to modernize FISA. Now is the time to make sure that

the intelligence community has the capability to identify the threats

and the individuals who may want to attack the United States and make

sure that they are in a position to identify these threats and get this

information to our law enforcement individuals in the United States in

a seamless way.

We've made progress in a number of areas in intelligence reform.

There's still much work to do, but one of the areas that we have not

done is update FISA.

Defeat the previous question and allow for the modernization of FISA

now.