Cyber Liberties Assignment

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Those who would sacrifice freedom for security deserve neither.” It’s not possible to fully protect citizens without someone feeling as though their rights are being infringed upon. We believe the government abuses the liberties of Americans, usually without them knowing. To many, there is no happy medium.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed…” - Declaration of Independence. It’s stated that as citizens of the United States of America, we are granted the rights to live our lives, be free, and be owners of our own land. However, these rights are written in this particular order for a specific reason. Many people fail to realize that the well being and life of citizens should precede the liberty and privacy granted to those citizens. The government is expected to protect the people of its nation. Holding this responsibility, the government should be able to take the precautions necessary without having the people feel that their personal lives are being invaded. If the people had nothing to keep from the government, then they should have nothing to worry about.

It is hard to find common ground between privacy and safety. In order to feel secure, privacy must be sacrificed. You cannot have absolute security because this, in turn, could be considered as fascism, but absolute freedom would result in anarchy. Since the government has so much control, it is thought to be controlled solely for and by the people of the nation. Some people may argue that the government does not follow the guidelines laid out in the Constitution; that there is much needed information that they do not release. If this information was given to the people, the idea of privacy invasion would be viewed differently.

There are many rights that the government should hold inviolable; the freedoms listed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Sometimes it seems that the government can interfere and dictate over these freedoms. Many citizens fear that the government listens to their personal phone calls, reads e-mails, and records video surveillance of them. Modern technology has increased the government’s ability to invade privacy because of the amount of information provided by the people. However, it is not the government they should be worried about, it’s hackers and terrorists that plot against our country.

This argument could go either way, but the first thing that the government has to take into consideration is our security. They should be able to take all precautions necessary to protect their people. It depends on your opinion of how far the government should be able to look into our personal lives, but in reality, they only have the country’s best interests in mind.