

Name: _____

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Before:

1. Should your government have your personal information (name, phone number, etc.)

Which types are OK with you? Which types are not?

2. How do you feel about your government being able to record your phone conversations?

Is that OK with you?

3. Why would a government want to listen to your phone conversations? How could it help you?

4. How could a government misuse (abuse) the ability to listen to your phone conversations?

After:

1. Do you feel the same way about this issue as at the beginning of the class? Why / why not?

2. Should the Patriot Act be extended? Or should the Freedom Act be passed? Why / why not?

3. Without thinking of your opinion, what do you think will happen?

4. Has something like this happened in your country? Could it?

MELISSA BLOCK, HOST:

The bulk collection of Americans' phone records that Edward Snowden [redacted] two years ago is [redacted] the Republican-led Congress. The issue has come to a [redacted] because the part of the USA Patriot Act used to [redacted] out that bulk collection [redacted] at the end of the month. Today the House voted overwhelmingly to modify that [redacted] by banning the massive collection of phone data. But Senate GOP leaders want to prolong the program for [redacted] [redacted] years. NPR's David Welna reports.

DAVID WELNA, BYLINE: Bob Goodlatte, the Republican who chairs the Judiciary Committee, led the charge for approving the so-called USA [redacted] Act, a bill [redacted] the National Security Agency's bulk collection of what Goodlatte said were millions of Americans' [redacted] [redacted] everyday.

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REPRESENTATIVE BOB GOODLATTE: Despite changes to the NSA bulk telephone meta data program announced by President Obama last year, the bulk collection of the records has not [redacted] and will not [redacted] unless and until Congress acts to shut it down.

WELNA: And as Washington State Democrat Suzan Del Bene [redacted] [redacted], just last week a federal appeals court ruled that the NSA's bulk collection program was illegal.

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SUZAN DELBENE: But the court refrained from enforcing its [redacted] instead placing the burden on Congress to protect Americans from unwarranted mass [redacted].

WELNA: Under the bill, the NSA's phone records surveillance would be [REDACTED], court [REDACTED], and the data would be held by the phone companies. The White House, privacy advocates, intelligence [REDACTED] and private [REDACTED] have all voiced support for this revision of the USA Patriot Act. Earlier today, House Speaker John Boehner added his endorsement.

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HOUSE SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER: All I know is that these programs [REDACTED] at the end of this month. They're critically [REDACTED] to keep Americans [REDACTED]. The House is going to act on it. I hope the Senate would act soon as well.

WELNA: The Senate has barely a week to act, though it's not yet [REDACTED] what it might do. Some Senate Republicans back a bill introduced by majority leader Mitch McConnell. It simply reauthorizes the provision under which bulk [REDACTED] is carried out. Florida Republican and presidential [REDACTED] Marco Rubio [REDACTED] that program last week on the Senate floor.

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SENATOR MARCO RUBIO: There's not one single case that's been brought to us as an example of how this program is being [REDACTED]. Show me the story. Give me the name. To the world, show us who is this individual that is going out there and [REDACTED] the phone records of Americans [REDACTED].

WELNA: In fact, weeks after Snowden's [REDACTED] of the bulk collection program, the NSA acknowledged nearly 3000 privacy rule [REDACTED] over a one year period. Some of them involved spying on colleagues' love affairs. Libertarian-leaning Republicans, including presidential contender Ted Cruz of Texas, are backing the bill that [REDACTED] bulk [REDACTED].

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SENATOR TED CRUZ: I think it is important that we [REDACTED] our constitutional [REDACTED] and that means ending the federal government's bulk [REDACTED] of phone metadata of law-abiding [REDACTED].

WELNA: At this point, it appears neither bill in the Senate could get the 60 votes needed to move forward. John McCain, the Republican who chairs the Armed Services Committee, says he worries that the [REDACTED] allowing bulk [REDACTED] could simply expire at the end of the month and with it, the NSA's ability to track [REDACTED].

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SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN: I'm open to any [REDACTED]. I would vote for a straight reauthorization, but there are [REDACTED], and those [REDACTED] I think we could address through negotiations.

WELNA: GOP leaders have broached simply passing a short-term [REDACTED] of the expiring Patriot Act provisions. Opponents say they'd filibuster such a move. They're confident that today's strong show of support in the House for ending bulk [REDACTED] will force the Senate to follow suit. David Welna, NPR News, Washington.