

# Patriot Act

Responses to "Patriot Act hits wall in Senate,"  
Page One, Dec. 17

## Policy ranks as an abuse of power

Thank goodness, some Republican senators -- not Georgia's -- awakened to realize that the Patriot Act is a dangerous abuse of power.

Aside from allowing spying on suspected terrorists (needed and appropriate), the act allows the federal government to spy on "clandestine intelligence activities" of *any* kind -- with no connection to terrorism or potential terrorism necessary.

Its hastened enactment shortly after Sept. 11 was somewhat understandable. Now, extension in its existing form constitutes an abuse of power and a grave mistake for the republic.

Its necessary anti-terrorism provisions should be kept and the rest of it eliminated.

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