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Published: 10.21.2004

## Demos, 9/11 kin angered by GOP intel maneuvers

*KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS*

WASHINGTON - Talks to produce a final intelligence restructuring bill hit a rocky patch Wednesday when House Republicans revealed that they've been privately crafting a compromise without input from Democrats.

The announcement followed two hours of speeches in which lawmakers of both parties pledged a bipartisan effort to hammer out a consensus. The revelation of a unilateral bill, being drafted with White House input, angered some of the Sept. 11 victims' families present for the House-Senate negotiators' first meeting.

"It's just a slap in the face to us family members for them to play political games," said Carie Lemack, whose mother was aboard the first plane to hit the World Trade Center.

The families are urging Congress to complete work before the Nov. 2 election on recommendations by the Sept. 11 commission.

### **Pledges of bipartisanship**

While the House- and Senate-passed bills embrace the commission's main goals - appointment of a national intelligence director and creation of a national counterterrorism center - they differ in the details. And the House bill includes law enforcement and immigration provisions opposed by the Sept. 11 commission and in some cases by the White House.

The chairman of the House-Senate conference, Rep. Pete Hoekstra, vowed bipartisan talks. The Michigan Republican said he would offer the House GOP draft to jump start talks.

Rep. Jane Harman of California, top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, was visibly angry about the Democrats' shutout. "I would question the usefulness of a Republican House product being introduced this late in the process," she said. After Senate Democrats also lodged objections, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, proposed a compromise: The negotiators' top Democrats and Republicans would decide the next step.

"It's really important that we not overreact," said Collins, who earned plaudits from Democrats for working closely with them to craft the bill that passed the Senate 96-2.

She, Hoekstra, Harman and Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., met twice Wednesday afternoon and evening, possibly paving the way for all negotiators to reconvene today.

### **House bill controversial**

The negotiators declined to discuss developments, and House Republicans refused to reveal whether the House GOP draft jettisons controversial immigration and law enforcement provisions. The House bill would greatly expand the government's power to speedily deport

illegal immigrants, tighten asylum requirements, ban the use of foreign ID cards such as Mexico's matricula consular, and increase criminal penalties against terrorists.

House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., urged the negotiators to retain the House-passed provisions, calling them essential to national security.

"I strongly believe that we must not be deterred by the well-intentioned belief expressed by some that these ideas in the House bill are too controversial to be enacted," Sensenbrenner said.

Some victims' relatives sided with Sensenbrenner, fearing Congress will not revisit border security if the measures aren't included in the intelligence overhaul bill.

"We don't want half a loaf. We want the whole thing," said Joan Molinaro, whose firefighter son, Carl, died at Ground Zero.

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