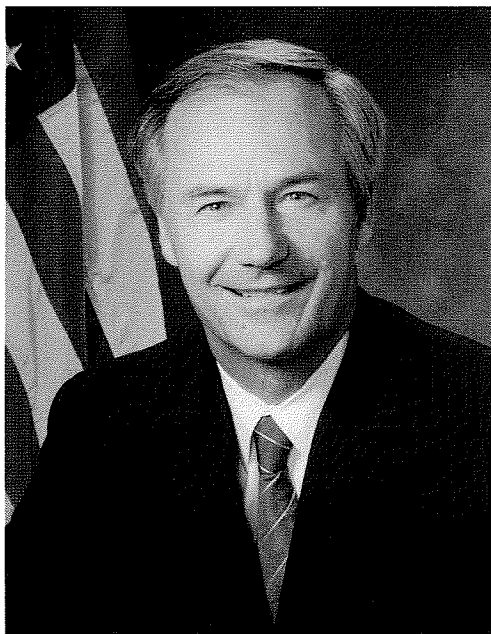


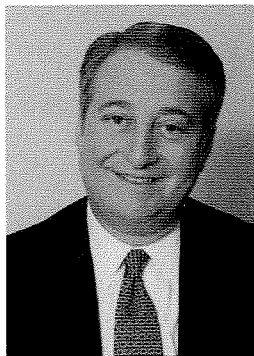
HOMELAND SECURITY: DETECTING VISA OVERSTAYS AND FALSE IDENTITY PAPERS



Remarks by Asa Hutchinson,
Under Secretary
Border and Transportation Security
U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
October 29, 2003

Citizens Crime Commission
OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

THE MILSTEIN CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY FORUM



HOWARD P. MILSTEIN

Since 2002, the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City has presented a series of Criminal Justice Policy lectures sponsored by Edward L. and Howard P. Milstein through the Milstein Brothers Foundation. Each event features a nationally prominent speaker who addresses the Commission on such issues as crime, criminal justice or terrorism. The formal remarks are followed by a question-and-answer period. Each meeting is open to the media.

Attendance is limited to 150 invited guests drawn from the top ranks of the New York City business and law enforcement communities. Each lecture is printed and distributed to top business, civic and law enforcement leaders.

The Citizens Crime Commission of New York City is an independent, non-profit organization working to reduce crime and improve the criminal justice system in New York City. The Commission is supported by the business community; its board of directors is drawn from top corporate executives and members of major law firms. The Commission was established in 1978.

Howard and Edward Milstein are prominent New York bankers and real estate owners. They have a long record of working with the New York City criminal justice system to create and support innovative programs. They are also active in national crime prevention issues.

Introduction by Howard P. Milstein

Thank you, Tom. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My brother, Edward, and I are proud to sponsor the new Criminal Justice Policy series organized by the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City. And we're proud to support law enforcement at all levels of government.

Since the events of September 11th, we've become particularly interested in Homeland Security as our nation's most immediate need in preserving our democratic society. As a businessperson, I understand the impact terrorism can have on our financial markets and our economy. More importantly, American lives and our way of life are at stake. This is a challenge that every American is prepared to address. When our leaders create structures and ways for private citizens to help with the war against terrorism, 280 million Americans will answer the call.

Today, we have the good fortune to hear from one of the people who is working to restore our sense of safety as we go about our day-to-day business: the Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security. Secretary Hutchinson is a man with a distinguished career.

In 1982, at the age of 31, Ronald Reagan appointed him U.S. Attorney for the

Western District of Arkansas. He was the youngest U.S. Attorney in the nation.

Elected to Congress in 1996, he served as a U.S. Representative from Arkansas and was a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Judiciary Committee. In 2001, after being re-elected to his third term, Mr. Hutchinson was appointed Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), where he combined tough law enforcement initiatives with increased investment in treatment and education programs.

This past January, after being appointed by President Bush, the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Asa Hutchinson as Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security. As Under Secretary, he leads a directorate of over 110,000 employees and is responsible for coordinating the enforcement activities of our borders, transportation and immigration systems. And these days, I can't think of a bigger job than that!

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to Under Secretary Asa Hutchinson.

Remarks by Asa Hutchinson

Under Secretary Border and Transportation Security U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Good afternoon. I would like to talk about some of our accomplishments under the leadership of President Bush and Secretary Ridge, and with the dedicated work force of the 180,000 men and women from the 22 agencies making up this Department.

In nine months we have made very significant improvements in security, organization, and mission alignment, and we have taken the lead of coordinating homeland security among all the federal agencies.

We have improved aviation security by putting in place thousands of air marshals; by requiring hardened cockpit doors; and accomplishing 100 percent screening of passengers and their bags.

Our borders are more secure. We have hired more inspectors and border patrol agents, and invested in more technology on the vast stretches of land between the ports of entry. And then by the end of the year we will have installed at 115 airports a means to electronically confirm the identity of foreign visitors with visas. This will be under U.S. VISIT and will help prevent travel document fraud.

We have increased intelligence sharing among the federal government and with first responders and the private sector.

But each day we work, we are reminded that in the land of freedom we must do more to protect America and to give America confidence and hope that we are doing all we can to prevent another terrorist attack.

Today I want to discuss two problems that impact the security of our Nation. The first is visa overstays – in other words an alien who enters legally but stays illegally; and the second is misuse of identity documents.

The attack on America was perpetrated by 19 hijackers who entered the U.S. on visas – travel visas, business visas, and student visas.

At least three of the hijackers had expired visas. When they wanted to attack America, why did they use the visa process? Why did they not cross our borders illegally? It is because terrorists who enter our country need an identity. They have to maneuver. They must have access. They must work or go to school. They must operate for a period of time without detection.

To accomplish this necessity, they chose to misuse our visa system and to be aided by misuse of identity documents.

How have we responded to these vulnerabilities? The Department of Homeland Security has taken substantial steps in

coordination with the State Department to address vulnerabilities in our visa system.

We now require security checks for applications; personal interviews; and as I mentioned, biometric identifiers will be taken in coming months under U.S. VISIT.

The U.S. VISIT system also helps us address the second concern: misuse of identity documents, fraud, and visas and passports. Last year our border inspectors detected over 60,000 fraudulent documents at our ports of entry. Under U.S. VISIT, fraudulent documents will no longer work because we confirm identity biometrically.

But the problem goes beyond visas and passports – we are also concerned about the fraudulent use of driver's licenses and other forms of identity, including birth certificates.

For example, as you know, an American citizen can travel anywhere in the western hemisphere, with the exception of Cuba, without a passport. Historically, the state driver's license has been a principal form of identity. But if states do not have standards of integrity in the issuance, then we will have to reconsider any reliance on state driver's licenses for identification purposes.

Let me make some additional points. The Department of Homeland Security will work with the states to develop security standards for state driver's licenses and other identity documents. If the trend is not reversed, then America will need to re-educate ourselves on the limited purpose

of a driver's license, which is to verify identity and residence.

Private entities need to take responsibility for establishing standards to identify and verify their business partners. If standards are inadequate, businesses run the risk of facilitating criminal conduct.

Other actions at the Department of Homeland Security are important in the area of document fraud. First, training is a critical part of protection, including the training for our inspectors. The fact that Secretary Ridge unified our inspection forces will help us and increase our ability to properly train our inspectors.

Now agriculture inspectors, customs inspectors, and immigration inspectors will all be unified. Their training will be enhanced at the border. We will also train the secondary inspectors to receive more advanced training on document fraud identification.

Secondly, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, has a very aggressive forensic document laboratory that gives real-time assistance for the inspectors in the field and provides alerts to the field.

For example, we sent out an alert referencing stolen blank Filipino passports. Another alert provides information on counterfeit N-series passports that were available in Turkey for \$500 each. These information circulars help our inspectors identify fraudulent travel documents.

We have trained over 6,400 enforcement officials around the world in more expertise in document fraud detection. Our investigations are also a critical part of this effort.

Through an initiative with the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Virginia, we have joined with the FBI, Social Security, IRS, Department of State, Postal Service, Virginia DMV and others to investigate large immigration visa and identification fraud.

Here in the Washington, D.C. area, we have had an investigation called "Operation Card Shark" that goes after counterfeit documents in the Adams Morgan area. To date, we have identified four document mills that have been closed and the seizure of close to 2,000 documents with an estimated street value of \$155,000. Fifty aliens have been taken into custody. Thirty have been removed. Fifteen have been prosecuted. One has been sentenced for 52 months.

In addition, I am very pleased with an initiative of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection that has developed an image storage retrieval system, which is a Web-based system that provides 40 ports of entry with access to the actual documents that aliens may attempt to use.

The Department of Homeland Security is working to achieve a balance: a balance between security and the essence of America as a welcoming nation; between security and privacy; and between security and the flow of commerce.

It takes a commitment to checks and balances to achieve security without diminishing our values. But we can achieve this balance.

Almost 100 years ago, the Princeton professor Henry Van Dyke gave a series of lectures, which were then collected in a book called *The Spirit of America*. Van Dyke described Americans this way: "A people of idealists, set about to accomplish a very practical task."

We are idealistic about our nation – our freedoms, our values, and our future. But today we find before us a very practical task – protecting our nation against the threat of terrorism. Working together, this is a task that we can accomplish, and will accomplish.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. ■