

# **Senate Grants Clinton Tools To Combat Terrorism**

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The Senate on Wednesday passed compromise legislation giving President Clinton most of the anti-terrorism weapons he asked for in the wake of the bombing of the federal office building in Oklahoma City.

"This legislation will give law enforcement the tools it needs to do everything possible to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening again," the president said. "It will also help us prosecute and punish terrorists more effectively. I urge the House to do its part and get a bill on my desk without delay."

The Senate passed the bill 91-8, after majority Republicans and moderate Democrats beat back attempts to dilute it.

The bill authorizes nearly \$2 billion for new federal agents, prosecutors and other personnel. It also:

Permits the use of "roving" wiretaps, with which federal authorities could electronically trail a suspected terrorist by tapping all telephones a suspect uses without having to obtain separate court orders for each tap.

Establishes streamlined procedures for deporting suspected alien terrorists at closed court hearings where the government could withhold some of its evidence from a defendant if disclosing it jeopardized national security.

Permits the military to give technical assistance where use of chemical or biological weapons is threatened.

Gives federal agents access to hotel registers, credit card records and requires companies to retain records in suspect cases.

Mandates that manufacturers and distributors use chemical tracers, or "taggants," in bomb-making materials so authorities can trace them to their source and locate suspects.

Erects new barriers to members of terrorist organizations from entering this country or raising money here.

Denies aid to nations that sponsor terrorism.

While the bill was driven by concerns that the prime suspect in the April 19 bombing, Timothy J. McVeigh, 27, formerly of Pendleton, was allied with

extremist paramilitary organizations, the legislation does not mention such groups, often called militias.

The House Judiciary Committee will begin work on its version of the anti-terrorism bill Tuesday. It is not likely to reach the president's desk until late July.

Senate Republicans used the bill as a vehicle to pass controversial new limits on death row appeals. Complaining that inmates convicted of capital offenses often wait 10 to 15 years for their sentences to be carried out, Republicans attached a provision that would set a one-year time limit on most death row appeals.

Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., a candidate for president, jostled briefly over the issue of habeas corpus, or death row appeals reform, with Dole threatening to sideline the entire anti-terrorism package.

Clinton said he opposed the appeals limitations, but changed his position Monday night.

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