

# FRIDAY BRIEF

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## Cabinet Heads Make Case for Homeland Security Department

In front of a special House committee overseeing the creation of the new cabinet department of Homeland Security, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill helped lay out the blueprints of President Bush's vision for the new department.

A major source of tension in the development of the new Homeland Security department has been whether or not the CIA and FBI will be placed completely under its jurisdiction, or kept as separate entities. Ashcroft assured the committee that the CIA and FBI, which under the President's proposal would not be part of the new department, would fully share the intelligence they gather regarding terrorism. Some members of Congress have questioned the effectiveness of a security agency that does not oversee the functions of both the CIA and FBI.

Another source of tension, the Immigrations and Naturalization Service (INS), was also touched on by Ashcroft. He suggested, against the wishes of one House committee's votes, that the agency should be moved intact into the department, not split between the Justice Department and the Homeland Security Department.

## Federal Panel Recommends Ban on Cloning

The presidential Council on Bioethics advised Thursday that all types of cloning should be banned, a recommendation that comes as the U.S. Senate prepares to take up the issue later this summer. There is unanimous, bi-partisan support among senators for the ban on reproductive cloning, a type of cloning that uses the technology to generate another human being. However therapeutic cloning, which involves the creation and destruction of human embryos as a means to generate organs and tissue to treat various diseases, remains a controversial issue as many senators morally oppose it. The council unanimously recommended a ban on private and federally funded reproductive cloning, but remained split on whether or not to allow therapeutic cloning.

Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS), who is very vocal on this issue, originally sponsored a bill that would completely ban all forms of cloning. However, he recently announced his intention to withdraw his complete-ban legislation and compromise on a bill that would call for a two-year moratorium on therapeutic cloning. President Bush, a proponent of a complete ban on cloning, has urged Congress to pass a total ban, and has said that he would not support a compromise.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle has indicated that he will not let the issue come before the Senate until the fall.