

# Police escort lawmaker after anti-war vote

**By Hazel Trice Edney**  
 WASHINGTON (NNPA) - One day last week, Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) emerged quietly from the conference room of the U. S. Capitol, where the Congressional Black Caucus had met for more than three hours.

She turned to the left and walked in the opposite direction from all of her colleagues, who streamed out behind her.

Awaiting her at the end of the hallway was a plainclothes police officer who had stood quietly and watchfully during the entire meeting.

He escorted her swiftly through the corridors, eyeing anyone who came near, including a reporter in tow.

Two plainclothes Capitol Police officers are protecting Lee after her Sept. 14 lone vote against a resolution giving President Bush broad latitude in using military force in response to terrorist attacks without congressional intervention.

"The resolution did not allow for the checks and balances system to work during these very critical times," she explained as she walked.

"I believe that whenever we're going to war, the American people should not

be disenfranchised," she said. "We are a country in mourning. People are angry. People are frustrated. People need to vent... There are many people who are very angry, so we're just dealing with it."

Later in her office, Lee's press secretary, Andrew Sousa, said she has received more than 30,000 letters, emails and phone calls in response to her vote.

More than half have been positive and supportive, while those that disagree did so respectfully, he said.

He declined to share any of the responses and what specific threats she has received.

The vote for the war powers was 420-1 in the House and 98-0 in the Senate, rendering Lee as the lone dissenter in the action, taken only three days after terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Center in New York, one into the Pentagon in northern Virginia, and one into a corn field in Pennsylvania.

The fourth was believed to have been intended for the Pentagon or a Washington, D.C. target such as the White House or Capitol.

In her floor speech before her colleagues, she called the



Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.)

Sept. 11 attack that has left more than 6,000 people missing and assumed dead "unspeakable." But she said the resolution gave Bush too much liberty to wage war as he sees fit.

The measure is different than that approved by Congress during the Gulf War.

That proposal required the president to report back to Congress after 60 days. Lee voted for a resolution to condemn the terrorist attacks and for a \$40 billion package to fight terrorism.

"Our country is in a state of mourning. Some of us must say, 'Let's step back for a moment and think through the implications of our action today so that it does not spiral out of control,'" she told Congress.

"As we act, let us not become the evil that we deplore," she said, noting she was quoting a clergy member.

The 55-year-old Lee, normally chipper, with a quiet demeanor and a bright smile, maintained a solemn expression as President Bush spoke Sept. 20 to a joint session of Congress.

Her Sept. 14 vote, though notable, was not unprecedented. Jeannette Rankin of Montana, the first woman elected to Congress, voted against America's entry into World War I and World War II.

Pundits speculate her vote will have little, if any, impact on her re-election next year.

Her 9th district in California is strongly Democratic and quite liberal, having been represented by anti-war activist Ronald Dellums, one of the Congressional Black Caucus' most respected members, for 27 years.

Lee worked for Dellums for 12 of those years. She promised during her 1998 election to "carry the baton" handed to her by Dellums, according to Congressional Quarterly.

# Profiling

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stopped more frequently. There's racial reasons for that," said Neal earlier this week. Allegations "seem to be easier to prove when blacks are concerned," he continued, then theorized why. "The judges tend to believe the police. So the judiciary plays a part in this too," he said.

Gary Peck, Executive Director for the ACLU of Nevada and a relentless critic of the behavior of local police toward minorities, was unequivocal in his assessment of Metro.

"They refuse to step up to the plate, acknowledge the problem and do everything in their power to address it," said Peck. Instead, he believes law enforcement wants to create a study that reflects what it wants, but not necessarily the truth.

A two-month test of the project was to begin on October 1, but after a Reno police officer was killed recently and following the events of September 11, the test was delayed for a month. The test period was also reduced from two months to one. Duration of the formal study, which will be conducted next year, is from January 1 to December 31, 2002. Results will be compiled, studied and forwarded to the Legislature for release in February 2003.

Patton has characterized the local debate about profiling as "productive dialogue." Said Neal, warily, "We have to see what the outcome is."

Patton described his role as that of a neutral party working with local law enforcement agencies to develop the study. "We're a facilitator and we're sensitive to the concerns of all the interests. Our job is to help develop a consensus," he said.

Peck, however, feels Patton has been anything but neutral and that he, in fact, has taken a side - the cops'.

"It is not the proper role of the AG to be an advocate for law enforcement," said Peck. "That office should, instead, be playing a neutral, facilitative role designed to produce the best and most complete study possible."

Peck will participate in the Reno forum today, having (See Profiling, Page 9)

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