

JIM COMEY WANTS TO GENERALIZE FBI'S INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION

In the 26th paragraph of a 32-paragraph article reporting on how FBI will remain terror terror under Jim Comey's watch (albeit, potentially, with a more particularized focus, which would be welcome), this detail appears:

Mr. Comey said he also wanted to apply the lessons learned in fighting terrorism to fighting other crimes. If Congress approves, he plans to move the bureau's head of intelligence out of the national security division and create a new intelligence branch that will amass information on crimes like fraud in an effort to more quickly identify trends and perpetrators.

I look forward to learning more about this proposal (and we shall see whether Congress permits Comey to make this move, though he is still Congress' darling). Plus, it's unclear whether "fraud" means the small-time fraud propagated by local businessmen or whether it's the kind Jamie Dimon has gotten rich off of.

Still, it's a much needed idea. While it poses the risk of expanding the use of intrusive intelligence tools, it also might lead us to establishing a better standard for the use of such intelligence.