

OCTOBER 29, 2003

**SCHAKOWSKY: BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MISSTATEMENT OF THE DAY -  
HOMELAND SECURITY** WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) issued today's "Bush Administration's Misstatement of the Day" on a homeland security.

President Bush proclaimed during a news conference yesterday:

*"America is more secure."* (Washington Post, 10/29/03) However, according to the [National Hometown Security Survey Report released today by the Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security](#)

:

- 87% of 304 local officials and emergency personnel who responded said they do not have adequate homeland security funding.
- Only 16% of respondents said the federal government is doing all it can on homeland security.
- 56% said communication and coordination with the federal government is inadequate.
- 65% said they had to spend their own funds for homeland security needs.
- 63% said the federal government has not given them specific information about protecting their communities.

Schakowsky said, "How can the President say we are secure when police chiefs can't find the money to buy protective suits for their officers and mayors don't have enough funds to secure water supplies and critical infrastructure?"

Ten municipalities in Schakowsky's Congressional District responded to the survey and Schakowsky is planning to release a district specific report early next month. Below, however, are quotes from local officials from the 9th CD.

Barry Liss, Deputy Chief of the Skokie Fire Department:

*"There are insufficient or unavailable funds within either fire or police budgets to adequately meet homeland security needs."*

Des Plaines Police Chief Jim Prandini:

*"Des Plaines Police lack everything except gas masks."*

Michael Hansen, Chief of the Lincolnwood Fire Department:

*"We have some vulnerability to our infrastructure, but we can correct them sooner if more federal funds were available at the local level."*

Bill Shaw from Niles:

*"Our Department's biggest concern is that Niles and its neighbors, and even the departments within our Village, do not have the necessary communications capability to work together in an emergency situation."*