

**U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing on the Nomination of John D. Ashcroft to be
Attorney General of the United States**

*Questions Submitted by Senator Russell D. Feingold
on January 22, 2001*

**With Comments by Kevin B. Zeese, Executive Director,
Common Sense for Drug Policy Legislative Group**

Questions for Senator John D. Ashcroft:

Racial Profiling

- 1. The hearing held in the Constitution Subcommittee on March 30, 2000, focused on racial profiling of motorists. Does your opposition to racial profiling include racial profiling of airline passengers or people walking down the street?**

Ashcroft: I have stated my strong opposition to racial profiling across the spectrum. There should be no loopholes or safe harbors for racial profiling. Official discrimination of this sort is wrong and unconstitutional no matter what the context.

- 2. On January 15, 2001, President Clinton called on Congress to pass a law that bans racial profiling. Would you support such a bill?**

Ashcroft: Former President Clinton proposed a host of things shortly before he left office. I am unaware of the specifics of this particular bill. I am certainly prepared to work with you on appropriate legislation to deal with racial profiling in a clear and decisive manner.

Zeese's Comment: It is good to hear that Senator Ashcroft will be work on "appropriate" legislation to deal with racial profiling. It would be good to know what he means by "appropriate" because as a senator he used his subcommittee chairmanship to stop consideration of a racial profiling data collection bill. (It is worth noting that he had told supporters of the bill that he would support it if certain changes were made. But, after the changes were made he still did not let the bill out of committee. This raises questions about Senator Ashcroft's trustworthiness.)