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Video Transcript: Norman Mineta Interview

The day after the 9/11 attacks, Secretary Norman Mineta was at the White House in a meeting with President George W. Bush, Cabinet members, and Democratic and Republican congressional leaders. The discussion turned to the concerns of Arab Americans, Muslims and those from Middle Eastern countries over the growing demands reported in the media that they be placed in detention facilities. President Bush later said, "One of the important things about Norm's experience is that sometimes we lose our soul as a nation. The notion of 'all equal under God' sometimes disappears. And 9/11 certainly challenged that premise. So right after 9/11, I was deeply concerned that our country would lose its way and treat people who may not worship like their neighbor as non-citizens. So, I went to a mosque. And in some ways, Norm's example inspired me. In other words, I didn't want our country to do to others what had happened to Norm."

OBSERVE Identify and note details. What seems important to you? What seems interesting to you?	READ THE TEXT Interview with Norman Mineta Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH7rGPXGicM&t=9s	QUESTION What do you wonder about? What confuses you? What do you want to further investigate?
	Well, there's no question that right after September 11th they were saying, "Take all these Arab Americans and Muslims and put them in camp." And I'm going, "I don't believe this. What am I hearing?" And so as we were putting together the security measures right after, on September 11th - and aviation security was in the Department of Transportation. And so on September 12th there was a cabinet meeting. And it was with the members of the Democratic/Republican leadership from the Congress. And towards the end of the meeting, Congressman David Bonior from Michigan who was the Democratic Whip, said, "Mr. President, we have a very large population of Arab Americans in Michigan, and they're very concerned about what's happening, and they're very concerned about what they're hearing on radio, television, reading in the paper about some of the security measures that might be taken relating to transportation."	

Source: Densho. "A Cabinet Meeting the Day after 9/11." *YouTube*, 4 July 2008, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH7rGPXGicM&t=9s>

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	And the President said, "David, you're absolutely correct. We are also concerned about this, and we want to make sure that what happened to Norm in 1942 doesn't happen today."	
REFLECT	What more did you learn from reading and listening to Mineta's interview (firsthand account)? Why is this source important?	

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