

I appreciate your letter; however, I have no comment to make regarding the subject matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT C. BYRD,
U.S. Senator.

SENATOR HOWARD W. CANNON

MAY 11, 1960.

DEAR SENATOR HENNINGS: In regard to your inquiry of May 3 concerning information withheld by executive departments and administrative agencies, my office has encountered one instance of particular relevance to the subject.

On or about March 24, 1959, my office contacted Mr. Guilford Jame-son, Deputy Director of the Congressional Liaison Staff for the Inter-national Cooperation Administration. I was refused a copy of the Babcock report, a study on internal reform of the Laos delegation of ICA. My office was informed that the document had been classified top secret because it was an internal evaluation report that would do great harm to our foreign policy if published. No further effort was made to obtain the report.

I hope that the above information will be of some assistance in your study on freedom of information and secrecy in Government matters.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

HOWARD W. CANNON.

SENATOR JOHN A. CARROLL

AUGUST 29, 1960.

DEAR TOM: It is a matter of common knowledge that information is repeatedly denied to Congress, to its accounting arm, the General Accounting Office, and to the press. Whether on grounds of security or executive privilege, denial has too often been used as a cloak to hide irregularities and incompetence.

The evidence turned up during the Strauss hearings; the calculated confusion and obstruction of the Dixon-Yates investigations; the denial of the International Cooperation Administration area evaluations to the General Accounting Office—these are but examples of practices which are all too common in our commissions and agencies today.

It should be made very clear that access to information is not a privilege granted by the administration; it is a right held by the people, their press, and their Congress.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. CARROLL.