

ized now. This does not mean however, that the memorandum should have been prematurely released. As Assistant Secretary Hardy stated in his letter to Senator Gruening, a copy of which was furnished your committee, the bureau used the designation as a means of assuring that proposed policy recommendations would not be released prior to official approval.

Sincerely yours,

D. OTIS BEASLEY,
Administrative Assistant, Secretary of the Interior.

SENATOR PHILIP A. HART

AUGUST 30, 1960.

DEAR SENATOR: In response to your survey concerning access to information within Government agencies, I can only report that in the short time I have been here I have not encountered any unwillingness on the part of such agencies to make information available.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

PHILIP A. HART,
U.S. Senator.

SENATOR VANCE HARTKE

MAY 7, 1960.

DEAR TOM: I am sorry to learn of your hospitalization, and I hope you will be back with us soon. In the meantime, I will attempt to answer your letter of May 3.

The principal incident bearing on the problem of withholding information from Congress, and far more important the general public, has been the recent investigations of airline crashes by the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency. Sometime during the second week of April, the CAB met with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency to report on the preliminary findings of the crash of an airplane near Tell City, Ind. Following the third such conference, a letter of recommendation was given to the Federal Aviation Agency by the Civil Aeronautics Board, suggesting that all Electra airplanes, not structurally inspected, be grounded. I learned of this through a friend who had heard it unofficially from the Board.

The existence of these recommendations was not acknowledged officially or publicly by either agency for more than 2 weeks. Even then, acknowledgment was made only after representatives of these agencies had met in executive sessions with the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and members of the committee had urgently suggested a statement by these agencies.

I hope that the subcommittee will continue its very worthwhile efforts to promote freedom of information.

Sincerely,

VANCE HARTKE.