

SENATOR WINSTON L. PROUTY

SEPTEMBER 2, 1960.

DEAR SENATOR: Please excuse the delay in replying to your inquiry with respect to the withholding of information from the Congress.

I have served in the House and Senate during only two administrations and in that period of time I have encountered no difficulty obtaining data to which Members of Congress are entitled.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

WINSTON L. PROUTY,
U.S. Senator.

SENATOR A. WILLIS ROBERTSON

AUGUST 26, 1960.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Replying to your inquiry concerning my experience as chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee in requesting information that was denied by some office of the executive department will say that I have never requested any information that was not furnished.

In connection with an amendment which I drafted last year on this subject for inclusion in the foreign aid bill, I examined all of the existing authorities touching on the right of the President to withhold information requested by the Congress or some authorized committee thereof. The exact point has never been decided by the Supreme Court. It involves, of course, an overlapping of sovereignty which the framers of the Constitution thought should be amicably adjusted between two equal and coordinated branches of the Government whenever the issue might arise.

You will recall, therefore, that in view of the decision I reached that while the Congress had the constitutional right of the purse which carried with it the right to know how appropriated funds had been expended, Congress did not have the power to compel the President to do any specific act and, therefore, my amendment was framed in a way that would require the President, and that included of course all branches of the executive department, to furnish requested information unless the President certified it would be against the public interest to do so.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A. WILLIS ROBERTSON.

SENATOR LEVERETT SALTONSTALL

MAY 9, 1960.

DEAR TOM: I have your letter of May 3 regarding the work of the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights with relation to the withholding of information by executive departments.

To the best of my knowledge and memory, I have no recollection of any such information being held up on any subject of the Armed Services Committee or Appropriations Committee in the last year.