

while it will still be relevant and helpful to the committee. I would be hopeful—

Mr. Moss. I am confident it will not go away day after tomorrow.

And let me say that I have chaired a subcommittee dealing with this subject matter for 10 years. I have given much thought and study to it and heard very many well-informed and well-intentioned individuals express opinion on it. And over on the other side of the Hill, in the Senate, continuing the work of his predecessor in the Senate, Tom Hennings, is Senator Long. And, strangely enough, he has come up with about the same conclusion I have.

And then we have professional groups. And I do not refer only to the press, because this really is no more a matter of concern to the press than it is to the bar or to the public. It is far too frequently identified as some seeking by the press of a privilege or a right that no one else has. The press has no greater right than any other individual, actually.

And you say that you do not think this can be clarified and that we might succeed in bottling up more than we would release. And yet, after careful study, we have not been impetuous here. Ten years in moving to a piece of legislation is rather a long period of time.

Mr. SCHLEI. Yes; it is, sir.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Moss. We feel this step can be taken now and that it will succeed in making more and not less information available, and we feel it would be in the public interest that this step be taken now.

We hope to convince the members of the committee. Most of them have indicated their conviction by the introduction of companion legislation. And that is why I really wish that we had a more constructive statement from the Department.

Mr. Rumsfeld.

Mr. RUMSFELD. I have a question or two, Mr. Chairman. Before I get into the questions that have come to my mind during your comments, on a question asked by the chairman, is it correct that the Bureau of the Budget has restricted some agencies of the Federal Government from coming before this committee as an economy move?

Mr. SCHLEI. Oh, no.

Mr. RUMSFELD. Your statement indicated the Bureau of the Budget was regulating an orderly flow of testimony to this committee.

Mr. SCHLEI. Well, all the departments and agencies of the Government are more or less in touch with the Bureau of the Budget on legislative matters, so that we can be coordinated with the President's policies and program, as you know. And it is just a matter of our talking to the Bureau of the Budget and saying, "Well, how many of us are going to testify? Who do you think ought to express this point?"

And in an informal process of that kind the Bureau of the Budget may say, "Well, we think the Treasury Department ought to come. It feels it is important. And this department ought to come. And do you think that you should be added to that number?"

And the agency will say, "No. If they are going up, we will just file a report. I think they will make the points that we will want to make."

And in a process, informal, like that, there is no restriction or compulsion.