

FEDERAL PUBLIC RECORDS LAW

(Part 1)

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1965

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to recess, at 2 p.m. in room 2247, Rayburn House Office Building, Representative John E. Moss (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives John E. Moss, John S. Monagan, and Donald Rumsfeld.

Also present: Samuel J. Archibald, chief, Government Information; David Glick, chief counsel; Benny L. Kass, counsel; Jack Matteson, chief investigator, and J. P. Carlson, minority counsel.

Mr. Moss. The subcommittee will be in order. Before we hear from our first witness this afternoon, I would like to insert in the record a letter which I have received, as chairman of this subcommittee, under date of April 2, 1965:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 2, 1965.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
Chairman, Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have your recent letter discussing the use of the claim of "Executive privilege" in connection with congressional requests for documents and other information.

Since assuming the Presidency, I have followed the policy laid down by President Kennedy in his letter to you of March 7, 1962, dealing with this subject. Thus, the claim of "Executive privilege" will continue to be made only by the President.

This administration has attempted to cooperate completely with the Congress in making available to it all information possible, and that will continue to be our policy.

I appreciate the time and energy that you and your subcommittee have devoted to this subject and welcome the opportunity to state formally my policy on this important subject.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

The letter is in response to one—and I have supplied copies to representatives of the press present here at this time and copies are available to anyone who wants them—I addressed to the President on March 31 of this year.