

stand it, to get more information to the public in general. The treatment that I received—as a Member of Congress, I was afforded last year on the committee on which I served and on which I was denied a nonsecurity, nonsensitive matter, vital for proper consideration of an authorization request which our committee was studying. I found this most remarkable, because I found in general the Government agencies that I have dealt with will make available to me and have made available to me the files that they have concerning Government matters. This is true in both the General Services Administration and the usual authority, but in regard to the Space Administration, last year our committee was considering the question of the location of an electronic research center, and this question had created a great deal of heat, some political undertones and overtones, and in the course of the hearings a great many questions were raised, and I asked the agency to produce for me and make available to me their files concerning this question, and it was refused, and actually, the procedure that was followed was the committee chairman asked the agency head whether he wished to make these files available to me, giving him the choice of whether he wanted to do that or not.

The result of the whole thing was that the files—the access of these files were refused to me. I was never allowed to have the information, although a budget line item was contained in the budget concerning this very matter which I was supposed to pass on in my capacity as a Congressman.

Now, it appears to me that if the committee is to obtain any public type of dissemination, the first place where we should be able to get information is from our position as Congressmen, because we, in effect, in many cases, are the link between the public in general, and the executive branch of the Government. We are the people being told to get results for our constituents from this bureaucracy that they must face, and if we are going to be denied the access to this type of information, I don't see how the public is ever going to get the information, and I think this is a step in the wrong direction, and I have to say quite sadly, although I asked the Speaker of the House to intercede on this matter in my behalf because I felt my prerogatives as a Congressman were certainly being trampled on. I could not get him to even answer my request in one way or another, which disappointed me greatly, but I would like to say Mr. Chairman, that we should attempt to do something about this type of withholding of information that belongs to Congress and make sure that that part of our public information department is in order before we worry about the public in general.

It appears to me that that is our first order of priority. This is, in my opinion, completely improper denial of information, and I wanted to make it known to this committee. Whatever action they can take on it to see that such action doesn't happen in the future—

Mr. Moss. Well, I certainly appreciate your concern when confronted with a refusal of information you feel essential in your discharge of responsibilities as a Member of Congress. That it should be the Space Administration is very disturbing, in view of the fact that this committee was responsible for having section 303 included as part of the Public Law 85-568, which is the act creating the space agency. It was one of the first clear provisions, in an organic act,