

making it very clear that the agency was to affirmatively undertake a policy of the widest spread of information. It provided also a disclaimer that nothing in this act shall authorize the withholding of information by the Administrator from the duly authorized committees of the Congress. I don't recall definitely, but did this committee receive a complaint at that time?

Mr. WYDLER. Mr. Chairman, I can't really say that I can assure you that I did, but I have only a recollection that I did write some correspondence to somebody on the committee in that connection, but I do not remember exactly.

Mr. Moss. We will check. I have no recollection of having received a complaint on this matter. Your committee, did it act to require the production of the information?

Mr. WYDLER. Well, actually, what happened in this connection was this: I made the request of the agency and they wrote me, in effect, and said they would not grant me this right as an individual Congressman, but, of course, they would be willing to meet a request of the committee. I thereupon made the request—I objected to that procedure, No. 1, but I thereupon made that request at a subcommittee meeting and was told that only the full committee could pass on it, and we thereupon took it up at a full committee meeting, and the chairman of the full committee refused to make the request on my behalf, but, of course, this was held under the most unusual circumstances. We had the head of the agency testifying before us at the time the chairman of the committee came into the subcommittee meeting and took a chair and they more or less agreed that I would not be able to see the files on that.

I personally never did see the relevance to the facts that I as a member of the committee wanted to see the files that I had to have a full committee to request to see them. There was never a vote taken on the matter. The chairman just indicated that he wouldn't request it and that seemed to end the matter there.

Mr. Moss. Subsection B provided that nothing in the act shall permit the withholding of information by the Administrator from the duly authorized committees of the Congress, and then, on page 23 of House Report No. 1770 of May 24, 1958, is this language:

This section provides that all information concerning the new agency's activities shall be made available to the public, except information required or authorized by Federal statute to be withheld (such as trade secrets) and information classified to protect the national security. Nothing in the act, however, would prohibit the Administrator from furnishing information to the Senate and House and the various committees of Congress. It was the desire of the select committee to include in the bill a positive affirmation of Congress intent that the people be enabled to know what is going on in their Government, subject, of course, to national security restrictions.

And the discussions at that time spell out rather clearly the intent of the Congress that there be a maximum of availability of information to Congress.

Now, in the hearings 2 years ago, this committee was critical of NASA for its failure to accept responsibility for determining the scope of information which would be available to the public. It seemed to delegate that decision, at least, to the Department of Defense. In a report which was filed in the last month, we reiterated our criticism of