

In addition, the trade publication of the tax-exempt foundations, *Foundation News*, which is published bimonthly by the Foundation Library Center of New York City, records in each issue the names of numerous donors making gifts of \$10,000 or more, as well as the names of the recipients and the amounts received. Thus, there is nothing secret about the donors listed in *Foundation News*.

As a matter of fact, only 1 foundation—out of almost 600 under study—has complained to us about the fact that names of its donors and the amounts they contributed were made public. That foundation is the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, D.C., which asked us to withhold such information from the press. My answer was "No." This foundation seems to be particularly concerned about our making public its donors for fiscal year ending June 30, 1964, and has thus far failed to furnish us a copy of its form 990—A tax return for that year.

There is no doubt but that, in a democratic society, secrecy can be destructive to the whole body politic. Secrecy in tax-exempt foundations—which are given their special privilege by the representatives of the American people in the Congress of the United States—is altogether out of tune. It is the public that pays for foundation tax exemption. Every single tax exemption creates an additional burden for those who do have to pay taxes. Therefore, in my view, the American people are entitled to complete—I wish to emphasize that word "complete"—information regarding the operations of tax-exempt foundations.

I believe in freedom of information. But I believe that public information extends not only to the government in power and to all branches of it, but to those instrumentalities such as tax-exempt foundations which are given extraordinary privileges in our society. The privilege of exemption from taxation bears with it a great responsibility. It is the responsibility to let the people know who gives what for what. Hence, I think that I am not asking too much for freedom of information regarding tax-exempt foundations. The source of their funds is of great interest to the press and public. I believe the American people ought to know, because they are paying the burden out of their pocket-books.

The public interest will be well served if the House Government Information Subcommittee will give consideration and approve the need for making such donor information available to the public.

Sincerely yours,

WRIGHT PATMAN.

STATEMENT OF HON. DANTE B. FASCELL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

I appreciate the opportunity to present my views to the subcommittee, not only because one of the bills you are considering was introduced by me but also because I have a deep, personal interest in the people's right to know. That interest is based on nearly 10 years of service with John Moss as a member of this subcommittee and as a member of its predecessor which initiated the study of information problems—the study which resulted in the bills now before this subcommittee.

I address you as a partisan—not in the political sense but in the moral sense. Access to Government information is not an issue based on political parties; it is based on a concept of government. By conviction, and by virtue of many years experience fighting for the people's right to know, I am strongly partisan in favor of the Federal public records law which would be established by the bills before this subcommittee.

I am surprised—and a little saddened—at the opposition which has developed to a Federal public records law. I note that a number of the Nation's major civic and professional organizations support the proposal, but I also note that nearly all of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government take the opposite side. They are strongly opposed to a Federal public records law as set forth in the bills before this subcommittee. These bills are not an offhand development; they are the result of many years work by this subcommittee, by its counterpart in the Senate, by dedicated newsmen and by many Federal Government officials. I had thought that, over the years, there might be a change of heart by those secrecy-minded bureaucrats who contended that they—and they alone—knew what information is good for the American people. I am afraid that is not the case. When legislation similar to the bills before you was considered by the Senate, that body took into account complaints by Federal