

In view of the recent introduction of legislation in the Congress to establish a Federal records law, I thought you would be interested in the enclosed copy of an editorial which supports such legislation.

I am hopeful that your colleagues in both the Senate and the House also will support the legislation whose need has become ever more evident as the Federal Establishment has grown and increased in complexity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. YUENGER, *Managing Editor.*

LETTER FROM ALLIED DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF WASHINGTON

March 24, 1965.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
*Chairman, Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, U.S.
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MOSS: In behalf of the daily newspapers of the State of Washington, I write in support of H.R. 5012. We are confident that Congress supports the principle of freest possible access by the public to information about government at all levels. This support can be manifested in passage of your bill.

By recognizing under (c) those circumstances in which public release would be against national interests, or otherwise violate the law or the rights of individuals, you have provided ample safeguards against unreasonable application of the statute. By providing for prompt review of secrecy rulings, you give the public a realistic right of access to information.

I might add that the executive departments should not feel they have been singled out for public exposure. Our State press organizations and our individual newspapers maintain a constant vigil over the public's right to know about the activities of State and local government. We ask simply that the Federal Establishment, with its vast and pervasive authority over the lives of all citizens, be equally as open, and responsible, to the public as are lesser levels of government.

Respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

PAUL CONRAD, *Secretary-Manager.*

LETTER FROM MARITIME ADMINISTRATION BAR ASSOCIATION

Washington, D.C., March 25, 1965.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
Chairman, Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, Committee on Government Operations, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. MOSS: Thank you for your inquiry of March 11 addressed to Mark P. Schlefer. The Maritime Administrative Bar Association does indeed have an abiding interest in resolving problems concerning the availability of information at the Federal maritime agencies.

As you know, testimony on behalf of the association was presented by Mr. Schlefer at the Senate hearings on freedom of information legislation during the last session of Congress. Hearings before the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (88th Cong., 1st sess. 1963) at pages 124-135. There is little that we can now add to that testimony; consequently, we do not plan to file a separate statement on H.R. 5012. If, however, it will be of any assistance to the subcommittee, we should be pleased to have our previous statement made a part of the record of the subcommittee's hearings.

Sincerely yours,

WARNER W. GARDNER.

LETTER FROM RAILWAY LABOR EXECUTIVE'S ASSOCIATION

Washington, D.C., April 1, 1965.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
*U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MOSS: This will confirm telephone reference to your letter of March 11 regarding hearings which your subcommittee now has underway