

3. *Bureau of the Public Debt*.—None; however, in some instances cases that have been decided by courts of record or authoritative bodies (except Comptroller General of the United States, Attorney General, Internal Revenue Service).

G. *Post Office Department*.—None; other than those made available for inspection in accordance with published rule.

H. *General Services Administration*.—May be given consideration in other proceedings involving internal management affairs (except personnel actions).

I. *U.S. Civil Service Commission*.—State and local employees being removed under section 12 of the Hatch Act and hearing examiners being removed under section 11 of the Administrative Procedure Act; in cases not subject to Administrative Procedure Act grievances and appeals from employees.

J. *Small Business Administration*.—Did not answer question.

QUESTION 6

What is the procedure for making available to the general public the records and files, interpretations, and legal opinions of your agency?

The agencies and departments state that their legal opinions are published in bound volumes. Records and files are usually furnished upon request, except in some cases only to persons properly and directly interested or concerned. In all other cases records and files are available for inspection only after permission has been granted by some top official. In still other cases, application must be made by written request for inspection of records and files.

In a few instances legal opinions are furnished only on a need-to-know basis. Some agencies and departments claim they have no formal procedure for furnishing information.

QUESTION 7

What limitations are placed upon the availability of records and files to the general public, either by statute, rule, or practice?

This question points up the exceptions the departments and agencies set forth for denying access to the general public of records and files. The agencies and departments have included almost everything in their files under some statute, rule, or practice, Executive or administrative order to withhold information. Even when in doubt the custom or rule seems to be to classify the information as not available.

The authorities for withholding most often cited are 18 U.S.C. 1905 (28 agencies) and Executive Order No. 10501 (19 agencies). In addition, almost every agency cites its own rules and regulations of procedure (usually published in the Federal Register and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations) as authority to withhold information.

DEPARTMENTS

Department of Agriculture.—18 U.S.C. 1905; 5b U.S.C. app. 2155(e), 12 U.S.C. 1141 J(d); Internal Rules and Regulations.

Department of Commerce (summary).—18 U.S.C. 1905; Executive Order No. 10501; Administrative Orders Nos. 201-13, 203-1, and 202-22.

Bureaus of Department of Commerce:

Area Redevelopment Administration.—18 U.S.C. 1905; records and files on loan applications—includes confidential business information.

Business and Defense Services Administration.—18 U.S.C. 1905; 5 U.S.C. 176(a) and 705(e); Executive Order No. 10501; Operating Instruction No. 17.

Office of Business Economics.—18 U.S.C. 1905; 22 U.S.C. 286 F, Bretton-Woods Agreement.

Bureau of the Census.—18 U.S.C. 1905; Executive Order No. 10501; 13 U.S.C. 9, 302; Decennial census—Presidential Proclamation No. 3337.

Coast and Geodetic Survey.—No citations.

Community Relations Service.—Section 1003(b) of the Civil Rights Act.

Bureau of International Commerce.—18 U.S.C. 1905; 15 U.S.C. 176(a); Export Control Act of 1949, as amended, section 6(c); paragraph 382.14 of comprehensive export schedule; Administrative Order Nos. 202-20 and 203-1.

Office of Management and Organization—Great Lakes Pilotage Administration.—Department of Commerce Order No. 64.