

SECRET

OLC 69-0207

12 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman David N. Henderson, Manpower and Civil Service Subcommittee, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee

1. In a phone conversation today, I quoted to Chairman Henderson salient parts of Senator Ervin's two letters to the Director, the first of which invited us to appear in open rather than executive session, and in the second of which the Senator referred to the Agency's "totalitarian powers" and made clear his opposition to an exemption.

[REDACTED]

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3. Chairman Henderson went on to suggest that, in view of the [REDACTED] position taken by Senator Ervin, and the fact that we had a good case, it might be to our advantage to appear in open session. I pointed out the hazards of this, particularly as establishing a precedent and making us fair game for other [REDACTED] congressional committees. Henderson said he appreciated this and could not really pass judgement--that we would have to weigh the pros and cons, but reiterated his feeling that on this issue we had a good case which would stand up well under public scrutiny. In any event, Henderson felt we should promptly show Ervin's letters to Senator Russell and explain our dilemma to him. Meanwhile, Henderson said he was continuing his preparations to cope with the problem on the House side in view of the fact that he "probably will have to get something out this year."

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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12 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Reaction of Senator John Stennis to Senator Ervin's
Letters to the Director Re S. 782**

1. This afternoon I showed Chairman John Stennis, of the Senate Armed Services Committee, copies of letters from Senator Sam Ervin, dated 4 and 5 March 1969, to the Director responding to the Director's request to appear before the Ervin Subcommittee in executive session regarding S. 782. [redacted]

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in the 5 March letter. Senator Stennis said that Senator Bayh had recently mentioned the problem to him and that he thought we should promptly make Senator Russell aware of the problem. He added also that he might mention the matter to Senator Russell himself.

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[redacted signature box]
JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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