

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1982

Dear Senator Baker:

Legislation to make criminal the unauthorized disclosure of the names of our intelligence officers remains the cornerstone for the improvement of our intelligence capabilities, a goal that I know we share. Nothing has been more damaging to this effort than the pernicious disclosures of the names of officers whom we send abroad on dangerous and difficult assignments. Unfortunately, these disclosures continue with impunity, endangering lives, seriously impairing the effectiveness of our clandestine operations, and adversely affecting morale within our intelligence agencies.

Last September the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Administration-supported version of the Intelligence Identities Protection Act. The Senate is soon to take up consideration of this legislation, and you will have before you two versions. While I believe that both versions are fully protective of constitutional guarantees, Attorney General Smith and I firmly believe that the original version, first introduced by Senator Chafee and others, is far more likely to result in an effective law that could lead to successful prosecution.

I strongly urge you and each of your colleagues to support the carefully-crafted Chafee-Jackson amendment to S.391. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this legislation.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Howard H. Baker
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510