

# CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

1755 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 • [202] 234-5703

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TO: COSSA Members, Affiliates, Contributors and Friends

FROM: Roberta Balstad Miller, Executive Director

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## COSSA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

November 24, 1982

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This Week . . .

Lame-Duck Session Begins

NIMH Appropriation: Weicker to Head Senate Subcommittee

Action on NEH Appropriation

Information and the Public: Do We Need to Know?

Social Science in the Press: The Soviet Union

Sources of Research Support: Department of Defense

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### LAME-DUCK SESSION BEGINS

The 97th Congress returns to Washington on November 29 at the behest of President Reagan to complete the FY 1983 appropriations process. At this point, Congress has passed only two appropriations for FY 1983. The major item on the agenda of the lame-duck Congress is to provide FY 1983 funding for the federal government after December 17 when the current continuing resolution expires. The session is expected to last until the final eleven appropriations bills for FY 1983 are passed or until a new continuing resolution is crafted to replace the expiring resolution.

### NIMH APPROPRIATION: WEICKER TO HEAD SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-CT) has requested the chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education to replace Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R-NM) who was defeated in the November elections. Formal approval of Sen. Weicker's appointment is expected on December 2.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee is officially scheduled to begin marking up the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, of which NIMH is a part, soon after the lame-duck session begins; the House completed its work on the appropriation in September. At this point, it is not clear whether Sen. Schmitt

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NIMH APPROPRIATION: WEICKER TO HEAD SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE (cont.)

will actually return to carry on with the Subcommittee's business. In the event that the Subcommittee will mark up the budget, COSSA is proceeding with its efforts to persuade the Senate Subcommittee to fund NIMH's research budget at the same level approved by the House of Representatives, \$152.3 million, and to increase funds for research training at NIMH from the FY 1982 level of \$14.4 million to \$16.6 million.

Social and behavioral scientists who live in the states of those Senators who are Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education are encouraged to write them urging their support for NIMH research and research training (see Attachment 1 for details). The following Senators are members of the Subcommittee:

Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R-New Mexico)  
Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Oregon)  
Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Connecticut)  
Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska)  
Sen. Mark Andrews (R-North Dakota)  
Sen. James Abdnor (R-South Dakota)  
Sen. Warren Rudman (R-New Hampshire)  
Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania)  
Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wisconsin)  
Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-West Virginia)  
Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-South Carolina)  
Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Missouri)  
Sen. Lawton M. Chiles (D-Florida)  
Sen. Quentin N. Burdick (D-North Dakota)  
Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii)

Letters to Members of the Senate should be addressed as follows:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

ACTION ON NEH APPROPRIATION

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior has recommended that FY 1983 funds for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) be maintained at their FY 1982 level of \$130.6 million. The subcommittee markup was held on November 18th. Members of the Subcommittee and its Chairman, Rep. Sidney R. Yates (D-IL), have consistently supported the humanities and should be thanked and encouraged to continue their support. Members of the Subcommittee are Representatives Clarence Long (D-MD), John Murtha (D-PA), Norman Dicks (D-WA), Les AuCoin (D-OR), Joseph McDade (R-PA), Ralph Regula (R-OH), and Tom Loeffler (R-TX). The bill will be considered by the full Committee on Appropriations on November 30th. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior will mark up their version of the bill on December 3rd.

ACTION ON NEH APPROPRIATION (cont.)

Moira Egan of the National Humanities Alliance reports that the number of applications to NEH in 1982 was the lowest of any year since the mid 1970s. Applications were down 13% from 1981. Readers of the COSSA Legislative Report are urged to let others know that funding from NEH is still available and proposals have a good chance to be funded. Continued low application rates may well be used to justify funding cuts in the future.

William J. Bennett, Chairman of NEH, speaking to a convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, discussed NEH's new guidelines for education grants. The guidelines are designed to promote basic educational courses in such areas as English, history and philosophy. See Attachment 2 from the Washington Post for further information.

INFORMATION AND THE PUBLIC: DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

In a series of recent policy decisions, the Reagan administration has moved to restrict the amount of information made available to the public by the federal government. Whether this is the result of discrete and unrelated actions needed to curtail unnecessary spending, as the administration maintains, or whether it stems from a coordinated plan to keep the electorate ignorant, as Mr. Reagan's critics have charged, is a political question on which COSSA cannot take a position. The effect of these policies on research, however, is a matter of concern to social and behavioral scientists. Attachment 4 from the New York Times (November 15, 1982) discusses recent government actions in such areas as cryptology, statistics, and declassification of government documents at the National Archives. Pointing out that many of the restrictions were begun in the Carter administration, the article also expresses concern about the effects of these restrictions on academic research.

SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE PRESS: THE SOVIET UNION

The Central Committee of the Communist Party has been critical of social scientists in the Soviet Union for failing to teach communist theory effectively. Attachment 3 from the Chronicle of Higher Education cites a Soviet report that maintains that the principle task of a social scientist is "to show vividly and convincingly the ideological wealth and all-conquering power of revolutionary teachings, and the tremendous creative contribution that the Communist Party...is making toward their development."

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

Office of Naval Research (ONR)  
Division of Psychological Sciences

FY 1982 Budget: Just under \$10 million. This figure comprises approximately 5% of ONR's total budget for basic science research.

Program Areas: The following program areas will be emphasized although the list is not exhaustive and other areas of research will also be funded.

- (1) Personnel & Training -- cognitive processing; theory-based personnel measurement; computer-assisted instruction; testing.
- (2) Engineering Psychology -- non-machine system interfaces; visual and auditory perception; information processing; decision-making.
- (3) Organization Effectiveness -- organization productivity; leadership; turnover.

Disciplines of Principle Investigators: Mostly psychology. Also management sciences; computer sciences; operations research; educational psychology; statistics; business.

Funding Mechanisms: Contracts only. Almost exclusive use of unsolicited proposals.

Restrictions on Awards: None. Encourage projects of 3 to 5 years duration. Funding renewed annually.

Review Processes Employed: In-house review. Proposals are occasionally sent out for review.

Success Ratio: Approximately 40% of proposals are funded.

Contact Person: Dr. Martin Tolcott, Leader  
Psychological Science Division  
Office of Naval Research  
703/696-4505

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For more information,  
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202/234-5703

## RESEARCH ON MENTAL HEALTH

Fact Sheet for the National Institute of Mental Health, FY 1983 Budget

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Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education are urged to fund mental health research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the level approved by the House (\$152.3 million) and to restore, in part, funds for research training in mental health.

Mental illness is one of the nation's major public health problems. It is estimated that about 20 million people in the United States suffer from some form of mental illness. Moreover, the annual cost of mental illness, taking into account factors such as loss of earnings and the cost of care in and out of institutions, is estimated to exceed \$25 billion.

Mental health research in the social and behavioral sciences at NIMH has expanded and improved the range of treatment options available to patients. For example, psychosocial treatments are now being used successfully both as an alternative to, and in conjunction with, drug therapies. Epidemiologic studies are yielding data on the distribution of psychological disorders in the population and, by improving our understanding of risk factors in mental illness, are suggesting points at which prevention efforts should be undertaken. Research on brain mechanisms that underlie behavior is uncovering information about genetic and chemical factors that affect normal functioning.

### Extramural Research at NIMH

Funds for NIMH's extramural research program, which supports research in the biological, social, and behavioral sciences, were cut 14% (from \$109.6 million in FY 1981 to \$94.5 million in FY 1982), although a supplemental appropriation of \$6.5 million brought the FY 1982 total to \$101 million.

Social and behavioral science research is beginning to clarify such basic mental processes as learning, memory, and emotional development. It is helping practitioners to understand how stress and the strategies we use to cope with stress affect mental health. As a result of social and behavioral science research in issues of mental health, new therapies are being developed to treat depression and to improve coping, self-control and problem-solving skills.

The great strides that have been made in mental health research over the past decade are in no small measure due to its multidisciplinary nature and the high standards to which all studies are held at NIMH.

Recommendation: To continue these programs, research at NIMH should be funded at \$152.3 million, the level adopted by the House. The Committee report should include language emphasizing that high quality research from all disciplines, including the social and behavioral sciences, be supported.

### Research Training at NIMH

NIMH research training grants to university programs in the biological, social and behavioral sciences allow these science departments to train researchers with expertise in issues of mental health. Funds are awarded to provide stipends for pre- and post-doctoral trainees and to support specialized training in areas of mental health research.

NIMH's research training program, which was funded at \$18.9 million in FY 1981, was reduced by 24% to \$14.4 million in FY 1982. Although current economic constraints may dictate some cutback in this program from FY 1981 levels, the reduction it sustained last year was disproportionately high.

Recommendation: Restore research training support at NIMH to \$16.6 million, a point halfway between the FY 1981 and FY 1982 funding levels.

# NEH Backs The Basics

## Humanities Fund Favors Traditional Teaching

By Phil McCombs

The National Endowment for the Humanities has published guidelines for next year's education grants designed to promote basic courses such as English, history and philosophy rather than what a spokesman called "innovative, more faddish and topical courses."

The new guidelines—the clearest evidence so far of the federal agency's sharp change of direction under the Reagan administration—were sent to public and private educators across the nation two weeks ago. Endowment officials said they have already received about 100 tentative proposals from potential grant applicants.

"They're intelligent proposals," said Richard H. Ekman, NEH director of education programs. "People say, 'At last we can ask for help to do the things we really want to do.' People just see this as down-to-earth. They don't have to contrive their requests to fit something they think the endowment is interested in for the moment."

Under the new rules, grants may be made for:

- Improvement of basic, introductory courses in schools and colleges.
- Teaching humanities to elementary and secondary school teachers.
- Special demonstration projects showing successful teaching methods.

- Adult education courses in subjects in the humanities.

- The preparation of teaching materials from recent scholarship.

In a speech at the Washington Hilton Saturday at a convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, NEH Chairman William J. Bennett said the new guidelines are a key way the endowment would use its influence to promote traditional teaching.

"Humanities education is no longer an introduction to, and immersion in, the best [that is] thought and known," Bennett said. "It is often, instead, a collection of disconnected and often eccentric areas of inquiry . . . Instead of the discipline of tested excellence, our students and many of our teachers and scholars serve the tyranny of fashion."

In a defense of what is often called "liberal education"—although the Reagan appointee did not use that phrase—Bennett quoted Matthew Arnold, George Eliot, Goethe and other "greats." He said that if the study of the humanities continued to stray from the goals of "intellectual refinement and spiritual elevation, [it] can easily become, as it has now become in many places, irrelevant."

Bennett, a scholar who has taught law and philosophy, became NEH chief last Dec. 22. The endowment spent \$12.8 million of its \$130 million budget on education grants last year; it also supported the projects of a range of scholars, researchers, professors and filmmakers in other fields.

Marion C. Blakey, NEH public affairs director, said Bennett focused first on changing the education grant standards because he considered education funding the most important of the agency's functions. She said it was not yet clear what specific changes would be made in NEH grant guidelines in other areas.

John C. Maxwell, executive director of the National Council of Teachers of English, said he didn't hear clearly what Bennett said in his luncheon speech because he was "not listening very closely . . . I was looking to see if the gravy was being served correctly."

He added, "Certainly, several people in the audience were sympathetic. Others were not . . . My own reaction is I agree in part that we have strayed a little bit too far from classic material, and his remarks were in keeping with a trend of the times, which is to narrow down the curriculum and the range of texts being used."

Maxwell said that in recent years the curriculum and materials read in English, history and other humanities courses "ranged widely, much more toward modern works."

Ekman, the NEH's education program director, said, "The fact is when you hang around faculty lounges or campuses anywhere and ask faculty what is wrong with high school teaching, they say our students can't write, can't reason clearly, are too narrow in their understanding of other parts of the world, have no sense of history."

He said the new guidelines were designed to respond to those needs. One project funded by NEH that would be rejected under the new guidelines consisted of "elaborate kits" of workbooks, film strips, and a teacher's guide on the Eskimo and on New England whaling, he said.

"It was all very sophisticated stuff, but tremendously expensive," Ekman said. "Very few school systems could afford it. And for all the kits' attempts to be 'teacher-proof,' badly trained teachers didn't use it well."

A project that Ekman said would now be funded—if someone proposed it—would be to teach American history to social studies teachers who never studied it in college and now find themselves teaching it in high school. Ekman said many high school teachers were in this position.

A similar project has been funded and begins next summer, Ekman said. About 175 high school teachers will receive stipends to attend seminars taught by university scholars. The teachers will read Plato, Shakespeare and other greats, but there will be no study of teaching techniques.

"It seems to us it's an awfully good investment to deepen a teacher's understanding of his field," Ekman said.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

November 17, 1982

## *Social-Science Teaching Hit by Russian Communist Party*

By RICHARD OWEN

MOSCOW

Social-science teachers and faculty members in the Soviet Union have been assailed by the Communist Party's Central Committee for their lack of commitment to party goals and their unwillingness to stick to official dogma in their classes.

A report from the committee said a system of "refresher courses" established several years ago for social scientists had failed to result in any substantial improvement in social-science teaching. It blamed the Ministry of Higher Education for "failing to show the proper concern for establishing and strengthening refresher training institutes."

Regulations requiring social-science teachers to be retrained every five years have not been observed, the report said. The social sciences, it said, are being taught "passively" at Soviet universities and secondary schools, and seminars are being conducted "without proper student participation or critical analysis of the study materials."

The Central Committee's report appears to reflect a concern among Soviet officials that the social sciences have begun to encroach on areas of research and teaching that have long been viewed as the Communist Party's territory.

While the social sciences have gained a foothold at Russian universities in recent years, they are still regarded with suspicion because they deal with such sensitive matters as living conditions, family problems, alcoholism, social mobility, and "public opinion"—an unfamiliar and threatening concept to many Soviet officials.

The report reminded educators that the chief task of a social scientist must be "to show vividly and convincingly the ideological wealth and all-conquering power of revolutionary teachings, and the tremendous creative contribution that the Communist Party . . . is making toward their development."

It said the theoretical knowledge of instructors must be "expanded," so that the case against anti-Communism and the case for "contemporary Marxist thought can be persuasively argued."

From now on, the report added, social scientists must train their students as "active fighters for Communist ideals and patriots opposed to all hostile ideologies."

Social scientists in Russia have frequently complained that such directives place them in an ideological straitjacket, but in the current political climate, their complaints are not expected to carry much weight.



# Government Restricting Flow Of Information to the Public

By DAVID BURNHAM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 — In its first 21 months in office, the Reagan Administration has taken several actions that reduce the information available to the public about the operation of the Government, the economy, the environment and public health.

The actions have included increasing the authority of Government officials to classify data, cutting back on the collection of statistics, eliminating hundreds of Government publications and reducing the staff of the National Archives.

As critics increasingly question both the actions and the motives for them, President Reagan and his aides justify them on many grounds: slashing the cost of government, meeting the requirements of law, improving national security and curbing what they view as inappropriate promotional activities by the Government. The officials also note that some of their efforts stem from developments that began long before Mr. Reagan entered the White House.

## Impact of Changes Minimized

"There is no central directive to cut back on the availability of information, and the effects of the isolated events such as the reduction of publications have not been that great," said Larry Speakes, the deputy White House press secretary.

Jonathan Rose, an Assistant Attorney General involved in the Administration's effort to reduce the scope of the Freedom of Information Act, also said there was no unified effort to restrict the flow of information.

"I believe, however, that there is an effort to balance the value of collecting and disseminating information against other values we think are important," he said. "Freedom of information is not cost free, it is not an absolute good."

Among the critics of the Administration's action is Representative Glenn English, Democrat of Oklahoma, the chairman of the House Information and Individual Rights Subcommittee, who said, "It's politics, nothing but pure and simple politics."

And Dorothy Rice, the former head of the National Center for Health Statistics, said, "I have real concern that the reductions in the statistical programs will affect our ability to measure the impacts of the Administration's cuts in substantive programs."

"We know that good, sound economic policy and good, sound social policy depend on good, sound statistics," said Markley Roberts, an economist with

the A.F.L.-C.I.O. "Without such statistics we won't know where we are and we won't know where we are going."

Some of the actions to control information date from earlier administrations and some were mandated by Congress.

Beginning when President Carter was in the White House, for example, Adm. Bobby Inman, as director of the National Security Agency, initiated a drive to convince scientists working on information-coding methods that they should not publish their research until the reports had been reviewed by the Government. The effort succeeded; most of the nation's cryptologists are now submitting their scientific papers to the National Security Agency before publishing them.

As more and more information about individuals is stored in the computers of banks, hospitals and credit reporting companies, coding techniques to guarantee the privacy of this information are becoming increasingly important.

However, Admiral Inman, who went on to serve in the Reagan Administration as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, sought to expand the areas in which researchers would allow the Government to censor privately financed papers. Too much material, he contended, was reaching the Soviet Union, where it was helping the Communist nation to strengthen its military forces.

In a speech in March, Assistant Commerce Secretary Lawrence Brady lent his weight to Admiral Inman's argument when he contended that Soviet operatives had blanketed capitalist countries with a network "that operates like a gigantic vacuum cleaner, sucking up formulas, patents, blueprints and know-how with frightening precision."

## Technology Issue Unresolved

The issue of limiting the export of unclassified technology, begun in the Carter years, is yet to be resolved. Next year, for example, the Reagan Administration is expected to propose amendments increasing the Government's power to license such exports.

But the continuing effort to impose restrictions on research that is not supported by the Government has upset many in academic circles. A subcommittee of the American Association of University Professors reported in the September-October issue of the group's magazine that the trend toward tightening controls appeared to foreshadow "a significant infringement" of "academic freedom."

Also of concern to many academics is the budget-cutting at the National Archives, where more than three billion census reports, court documents, diplomatic letters and other Government papers are stored for examination by scholars and by people attempting to

trace their family histories. In the last year, a substantial cut in the number of archivists and support personnel has meant a 60 percent decline in the rate at which old Government documents are declassified.

"The entire way in which we preserve our cultural history is being undercut," said Joan Hoff-Wilson, executive secretary of the Organization of American Historians.

A drive to reduce the number of Federal statistical programs is another area where the original initiative came, at least in part, from outside the Reagan Administration. In December 1980, in the last days of the Carter Administration, the Democratic-controlled Congress passed a largely unnoticed but far-reaching bill called the Paper Work Reduction Act.

The law, which President Carter signed against the recommendations of most major Federal departments, requires the Office of Management and Budget to seek to reduce "the existing burden of Federal collection of information" by 25 percent by Oct. 1, 1983.

Last December, in its first report on the effort, the budget office said the number of hours that businesses, citizens and institutions had spent filling out Federal questionnaires had been trimmed by 13 percent since Mr. Reagan took office. A report dealing with the second year of the drive is expected shortly.

Jim Tozzi, the assistant budget director in charge of the program, acknowledged that as "we reduce the burden of information gathering, we have less data."

"Some people worried about 'Big Brother' think the reduction of data gathering is good," he said. "Other people see the Paper Work Reduction Act as considerably enlarging the power of O.M.B. My response to these criticisms is that there is openness in our decision-making, that there are checks and balances. Concerned people can file dissent."

Last month, the House Government Operations Committee released a report that the Administration had eliminated or reduced at least 50 major statistical programs on such matters as nursing homes, family growth, medical care expenditures, monthly department store sales, labor turnover, oil imports, collective bargaining and fertility. Shortly after the report was released, and after even Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan had expressed concern about the cutbacks, some of the Census Bureau programs were reinstated.

The committee's finding was based on research by the Library of Congress, which said it could not judge the relative merits of the programs affected. But the study emphasized that the individual decisions were not necessarily politically neutral.



Paul Conittin

Larry Speakes, deputy White House spokesman, says, "There is no central directive to cut back on the availability of information."

"Because information is a medium of exchange in government, changes in the amount, kind and quality of statistical information that is collected often reflect the policy agendas of those in power," the study said.

Publishing of Government information has also been cut. On Oct. 6, Joseph R. Wright Jr., deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, announced the terminating or consolidating of more than 2,000 Federal publications. Citing reports on how to buy a Christmas tree or clean a kitchen sink, he said the cutbacks would not affect "needed and necessary materials that should be made available to the public."

The list of publications selected for elimination, however, showed that many covered such topics as improving fuel conservation, counseling alcoholics, poison antidotes and the harmful effects of smoking.

Critics of the Administration say other indications of the politics involved are the attempts to suppress publications on social issues. On March 19, 1981, Jim Foster, now the director of information at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, signed a memorandum on two publications and a poster on cotton dust.

It said that Assistant Labor Secretary Thorne G. Auchter "has indicated that the following publications no longer represent agency policy and should be withdrawn from circulation and destroyed (including warehouse stocks): Cotton Dust: Worker Health Alert, Cotton Dust Standard: Management's Role, and Cotton Dust Can Destroy Your Lungs — poster."

#### Official Defends Action

Mr. Foster insists that the ensuing criticism was not justified.

"The cotton dust books did not meet with Mr. Auchter's favor," he said. "One reason was that he felt the two books, one for employers and one for employees, were antithetical to his approach of trying to get labor and management together."

He added that he later learned that his proposal was illegal, and the original reports are now available if requested. But a new version has been produced, cutting out photographs and quotations from workers who were seriously ill because of exposure to cotton dust.

Mr. English, the chairman of the information subcommittee, said: "All administrations try to control information for their own political purposes. The difference with the Reagan team is the degree of effort being put into reaching this goal. Mr. Reagan's people want to provide the American people with less information about their activities so they cannot be held accountable."

In another area, the House Government Operations Committee released a report last summer on an executive order signed by Mr. Reagan last April dealing with classifying information.

The report, based on extensive hearings by Mr. English's subcommittee, said that all the major changes ordered by Mr. Reagan in the name of national security broadened the Government's authority to place a secrecy stamp on documents. The order, the committee concluded, increased the amount of information subject to classification and dropped a requirement that the public interest be balanced against the need to keep the information secret.

#### Freedom of Information Battle

Another arena in the continuing battle to control information is the Freedom of Information Act. The Administration contends that the law has weakened law enforcement and intelligence agencies by undermining the Government's ability to protect the identity of secret informants. It also argues that the law has been abused by business groups to obtain trade secrets that other companies have been required to file with Federal regulatory agencies.

Mr. Rose, the Assistant Attorney General, said the Administration would ask the new Congress to amend the law. A similar effort was rejected this year.

Representative Ted Weiss, Democrat of Manhattan, contends that the amendment effort proves that the Reagan team "is moving rapidly to close the doors of government from the public."

"By denying citizens access to vital information, Reagan threatens to revert Government operations back to an era of covertness and cover-ups," he

said. "Recent history has proven that a government shrouded in secrecy becomes not only accountable but eventually irresponsible."

Both sides present cases to buttress their arguments. Supporters of the current law recall a four-year legal battle that ultimately forced the Pentagon to disclose details of how military contractors were using tax dollars to lobby Congress for increased spending.

On the other hand, William H. Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has testified before Congress that some organized crime groups had used information collected under the law to find out what the F.B.I. knew about their secret meetings and thus developed suspicions about possible Government informants.

Dr. Athan Theoharis, a professor of American history at Marquette University and a specialist in Federal surveillance policies since 1936, said he thought the attempts to weaken the law were a threat.

"The detailed factual history that is available about past policy through a robust freedom of information law is much more useful when discussing future policy than some vague generality," he said. "The fact that the F.B.I. put President Roosevelt's wife under surveillance is a much stronger argument for the need for effective restrictions than a less concrete observation about the importance of our constitutional rights."



Associated Press

Administration moves affecting the flow of information are seen by Representative Glenn English as "politics, nothing but pure and simple politics."