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SIGNING OF THE SUNSHINE BILL
Monday, September 13, 1976
12:00 noon
Rose Garden


MR -
Article in News
Magazine
written by Hughes



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 11, 1976

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE
GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE ACT

Monday, September 13, 1976
12:00 p.m. (15 minutes)
The Rose Garden

From: Jim Cannon 

I. PURPOSE

To highlight your signing of the bill which:

- requires generally that meetings of the members of multiheaded Executive agencies be open to public observation with certain specified exceptions;
- establishes procedures for closing certain meetings to the public;
- provides for judicial review of agency action regarding open meetings and related provisions;
- prohibits ex parte communications in certain administrative hearings;
- amends the Freedom of Information and Federal Advisory Committee Acts.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: The purpose of the act is to increase the opportunity for the public to observe governmental decision-making and to enhance the public's faith in the integrity of government. The bill's sponsors -- Senator Lawton Chiles (D. - Fla.) and 40 others -- have urged "that the Government should conduct the people's business in public." Congressional support for the bill was overwhelming; the conference version of the bill passed the House by a unanimous recorded vote (384-0) and the Senate by voice vote on August 31, 1976.

The act requires multiheaded agencies, e.g., the independent regulatory agencies and other agencies such as the Civil Service Commission, the United States Postal Service, the Export-Import Bank and the governing board of the National Science Foundation, to hold their meetings open to the public unless any of ten specific reasons for holding closed meetings is present. These agencies are required to give advance notice of meetings where possible. In addition, verbatim transcripts of certain closed meetings will be made available to the public. The act affords judicial remedies when an agency has not complied with these procedures.

- B. Participants: Attached at Tab A.
- C. Press Plan: Full coverage.

III. TALKING POINTS

To be supplied by Bob Orben.

PARTICIPANTS

Senator Charles Percy
Senator Jacob Javits
Congressman Paul McCloskey
Congressman Frank Horton
John Childers - Minority Counsel, Senate Government
Operations (Senator Percy)
Gary Klein - Minority Counsel, Senate Government Operations
(Senator Javits)
Paul Hoff - Special Counsel, Senate Government Operations
(Senator Ribicoff)
James Davidson - Counsel, Intergovernmental Relations
Subcommittee, Senate Government Operations
(Senator Muskie)
Eric Hirschorn - Counsel, Government Information and
Individual Rights Subcommittee, House Government
Operations (Abzug)
Amber Shultz - Assistant to McCloskey
Dave Lovenheim - Administrative Assistant to Horton
Phil Carlson - Minority Counsel, House Government Operations
Tom Sullivan - Minority Counsel, Government Information and
Individual Rights Subcommittee (Steiger)
Allen Coffey - Minority Counsel, Administration Practices
Subcommittee, House Judiciary
Bill Shattuck - Counsel, Administrative & Governmental
Relations
Ken Guenther, Federal Reserve Board
Tom O'Connell, Federal Reserve Board
Harvey Pitt, Securities & Exchange Commission
Chuck Platte, Federal Trade Commission
Bob Carlstrom, Office of Management and Budget
William Nichols - General Counsel, Office of Management and
Budget
Robert Bedell - Assistant General Counsel, Office of
Management and Budget
Harold Tyler - Deputy Attorney General, Justice