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September 25, 1974

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 APPROVED  
BY HOUSE COMMITTEE

A proposed "Privacy Act of 1974" was approved by a House Committee yesterday and would entitle citizens to see and correct information that the Federal government keeps on them. Any citizens would be entitled to see Federal files on him except at such agencies as the CIA, FBI, and Secret Service.

Does the President support the Privacy Act of 1974?

GUIDANCE: The President is very interested in privacy, as you may recall, as Vice President, Mr. Ford chaired the Right to Privacy Committee.

There are numerous privacy bills on the Hill, and we are working with the Congress in every instance to get bills which are good and sound and are acceptable to the President.

JGC

November 25, 1974

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY LEGISLATION

Does the Administration support the recently-passed privacy legislation which is now in conference?

GUIDANCE: The Administration is very pleased with the House passed bill and therefore supports it. We do have some concerns about the Senate bill, but feel the differences can be worked out in conference.

What are your concerns about the Senate bill?

GUIDANCE: The Senate bill provides for a privacy protection commission which we feel is not needed and would interfere with internal workings of government. It also does not adequately exempt criminal justice and civil law enforcement files. The Administration favors working with the Judiciary Committee to produce legislation specifically dealing with criminal justice. Also, the Senate passed bill provides civil remedy for virtually any violation, whether or not there is injury and allows punitive damages.

The Administration is delighted with the speed in which the Congress acted on this important legislation and is looking to the conferees to produce a bill which the President can sign this year.

JGC