

CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole predicted easy passage of the "Freedom of Information Bill" on the House Floor, Monday, June 20. The measure was favorably reported by the House Committee on Government Operations on May 9. Dole is a member of the Government Operations Committee and voted for the bill.

Briefly, the bill would provide that every executive agency publish or make available to the public its methods of operation, public procedures, rules, policies, and precedents, and to make available other matters of official record to any person who is properly and directly concerned therewith.

The measure results from a growing concern of the news media, legislators, and other government officials about the mushrooming growth of government secrecy. Without question, it has been increasing in the practice of federal agencies to deny the public access to information and such withholding has led to growing American suspicion that its government does not always tell the truth.

"While the measure will not correct all the abuses," Dole stated, "it is a step in the right direction, and will go far in correcting many of the problems while guaranteeing that those records and information in the national interest are still kept secret. The measure will exempt from public view national security matters, internal personnel rules and files, confidential financial data from companies or individuals, and investigatory files compiled for law enforcement and other proper purposes.

The bill has long enjoyed strong bipartisan support in Congress but has been delayed because of rumor that President Johnson might veto it. It now appears that if the House acts favorably on Monday, the President will sign the measure. "If so, Dole said, "the American public

will benefit in the months and years ahead."