

Dear Steve,

Bell, ABC

1/8/85

I hope you are not too busy to read 15 pages before, please, passing the enclosed on to your legal correspondent and/or the one who keeps track of administration repressiveness on information.

I think that what this represents ought frighten everybody.

It is a great danger to lawyers, for those who represent the poor without fees and for the prestigious who represent wealthy corporations - and their clients.

I believe that what I tried to say in this retyped draft had to be said, if only for history. I'm sorry I do not have time or energy to revise it or to enclose a copy of the decision. That can be gotten at the courthouse or from the two lawyers, Mark Lynch, of the ACLU Foundation, or Jim Lesar.

To me this means, for practical purposes, the end of FOIA when the government wants not to comply.

To me also the unhidden dishonesty of the panel is shocking.

When official mendacity (to which so many have adjusted) is rewarded by the courts which corrupt themselves to do it, where are we and where are we headed?

Hope you have a good year.

Sincerely,