

Part 3113180

## **Secret Use of Records In Memoirs Faces Curb**

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said yesterday he is preparing legislation to prevent government officials from secretly taking public records for use in their memoirs.

He said that had the legislation he envisions already been law, "it might have" altered the outcome of a Supreme Court decision last week that exempted some of former secretary of state Henry A. Kissinger's papers from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Civiletti spoke to a luncheon of the American Newspapers Publishers Association government affairs committee at a Washington hotel. He said he had received a task force report recently with 20 recommendations for amendments to the Freedom of Information Act.

Civiletti said he had accepted some, rejected others and made recommendations for some additional proposals. He said he would be ready to make his final proposals public in three to eight weeks.

Among the additional amendments he requested was one dealing with public papers.

"I asked the people in the department to take a very hard look as to making recommendations which would make available under the Freedom of Information Act public records maintained on public time on public paper in public buildings by public employees, and to prevent the defeat of that act by improper or surreptitious removal of such records," Civiletti said.

"The act ought to cover those materials; there ought to be public access to them," he said. "I don't think you can have a personal interest in developing source material for writing memoirs on public time or with public effort."