

FROM
REPRESENTATIVE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE
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Congressman Theodore R. Kupferman (R.-N.Y.) today pointed out the hypocrisy in the Administration position with respect to the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Kupferman's statement follows.

On July 4, 1966, with great fanfare, President Johnson signed into law an Amendment to the Administrative Procedure Act, popularly known as the "National Freedom of Information Act," (Public Law 89-487). This Act becomes effective one year thereafter, being July 4, 1967.

At the time President Johnson stated:

I am instructing every official in this Administration to cooperate...and to make information available to the full extent consistent with individual privacy and the national interest.

I supported this Act in the House of Representatives when it passed on June 20, 1966, and I was pleased to see that it was indicated that every effort would be made by the Administration to remove the veil of secrecy over papers and documents which could be revealed without violating the public interest.

Among those items in the Archives of the United States are the X-rays and photographs made during the autopsy of our late President John F. Kennedy. Repeated efforts by responsible groups to see these items have been refused.

When I requested an opportunity, together with a group of acknowledged experts in pathology, to review the X-rays and photographs, my request was denied by the Administrator of the General Services Administration, of which the National Archives is a part.

It is ironic that in the letter of March 8, 1967, Lawson B. Knott, Jr., Administrator, stated as follows:

The Public interest in the X-rays and photographs as a part of the historical record of the assassination of President Kennedy is appropriately served, not only by their deposit and preservation in National Archives, but also by the provision for unrestricted access by any official government body, including committees of the Congress, having authority to investigate matters relating to the assassination.

I call upon the President to make these X-rays and photographs available, and thus enforce the intent and purpose of the Freedom of Information Act, effective July 4, 1967, with a modern Declaration of Independence from subterfuge, hypocrisy, and camouflage.
