

For the Record . . .

**The Choice Between
Secrecy and Freedom**

The following is from "Freedom or Secrecy," by J. R. Wiggins (copyright 1956 by Oxford University Press) and is reprinted by permission of the publisher.

The information of the people is the foundation of our whole political system. Secrecy threatens that foundation, on whatever pretext or for whatever good reason it is invoked. Citizens must have the right to get information, the right to print it or otherwise publish it without prior restraint, the right to print without punishment for harmless publication, the right of access to materials of publication, and the right to distribute. When they do not have these rights they cannot choose their public officials wisely or judge their policies intelligently.

The political acts and judgments of citizens who are fully informed are their own political acts and judgments; the political acts and judgments of citizens who are only partly informed are the political acts and