

Jack Anderson on Secrets and Sex

Washington

Newspaper columnist Jack Anderson urged Congress yesterday to pass a law to require the automatic declassification of government documents more than two years old as an antidote to "massive over-classification."

Anderson said that the law would serve as an antidote to overclassification of government documents by the Executive branch of government.

Citing another type of alleged abuse of government secrecy, Anderson charged that the FBI had conducted secret investigations into the sex lives of "prominent Americans."

Without naming names, he said that "their sex lives, drinking habits and personal affairs have come under FBI scrutiny, although the FBI has no jurisdiction nor justification for this kind of snooping."

INTENSE

The columnist added, "FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover has demonstrated an intense interest in who is sleeping with whom in Washington."

He went on to say that he had seen FBI "sex reports" and that "President Johnson was one White House occupant who had a fine appreciation for stories about the extra-curricular love lives of public figures."

The FBI had no comment on Anderson's charges.

SECRETS

Regarding the proposed declassification law, Anderson said, "the executive branch should be required to explain and to justify any secrets it wished to continue beyond two years."

The reporter, whose col-

umn is syndicated to more than 700 newspapers including The Chronicle, made his statements in testimony before the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information.

The panel has been investigating the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in public hearings that began early in March.

AUTHORITY

Like many of the earlier witnesses, Anderson stressed that the power to classify information gave the government "absolute authority to make a state secret of whatever it wishes."

The Nixon administration, he said, like its predecessors, "has sought to control the news flow by classifying everything it doesn't want the people to know."

Also testifying yesterday was Representative Otis G. Pike (Dem-N.Y.).

"It is my own judgment that 90 per cent of what is classified should not be," said Pike, who, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, is often privy to classified information.

As an example of what he called "ridiculous" secrecy, he produced a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to him denying a request for an operation order that was also classified. The letter from Secretary John H. Chafee, dated June 23, 1969, was classified "secret" until the committee obtained permission to declassify it yesterday.

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