MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 24, 1966
11:30 a.m. Friday

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Signing of Information Bill

1. You will remember that Bob Fleming suggested, in the event the President signs the Freedom of Information Bill, that you hold a public signing ceremony, with an affirmative talk on freedom of information with representatives of broadcasting, newspaper publishers, newspaper editors, American Bar Association, etc. invited. The President disapproved such a ceremony.

2. Congressman Moss phoned me at 10:30 a.m. to urge you in the event that you sign the bill, to capitalize on it and hold a public signing.

3. Congressman Moss' theory is as follows:

The President has unjustly been criticized on the credibility gap; his opponents have built up an image of the President as being unwilling or uninterested in giving information to the public, etc. Here, according to Congressman Moss, is an opportunity to show the President's desire to inform the public through a bill signing.

Congressman Moss believes that if the President signs the bill, an affirmative statement by him would remove what he called "public distortion and false impressions" as to the desire of the President to inform the public.

Robert E. Kintner

Detained to be an administrative marking.