

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 7 --- Congressman Donald Rumsfeld (R-13th) has expressed his strong approval of President Johnson's action in signing the Freedom of Information bill, S. 1160.

The President signed the bill into law on July 4 at his ranch in Johnson City, Texas.

Rumsfeld, a member of the House Committee on Government Operations which helped draft the bill, said:

"I commend the President for his support of this important legislation. The President's far-sightedness and demonstrated concern about the people's right to know will, I trust, be noted by all officials of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government."

The Freedom of Information bill's purpose is to give the public and the press greater access to government information. In cases of unwarranted withholding of information by officials, the bill provides for an appeal to Federal courts. It also specifies nine areas in which information may be properly withheld.

The new disclosure requirement will take effect on July 4, 1967.

Rumsfeld pointed out that the new law "puts the burden of proof in withholding cases" on the governmental agency concerned. It does not, he said, "solve all the problems of Government secrecy, but is a welcome step toward the goal of a more informed citizenry, and President Johnson deserves the thanks of the American people for signing this important measure."