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AAP Tells Senate Unit of 14 Books that Needed FOIA

At least 14 books published in the past six years, several of them bestsellers, could not have been written if proposed changes in the Freedom of Information Act had been in effect, according to recent Senate testimony.

The Association of American Publishers told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee September 24 the 14 books "have benefited from information released by the CIA, FBI and other federal agencies pursuant to the FOIA."

The AAP said it opposed changes in the act that would limit public access to the files of those agencies. It said, "Book authors' ability to obtain information under the FOIA has fostered informed public debate on intelligence, law enforcement and related issues of moment to the nation, facilitated legitimate historical and journalistic research, and intensified the public accountability of the CIA, FBI and other vital institutions of government."

Several bills now before Congress, the AAP said, "would alter the presumption of public availability in favor of a presumption of secrecy concerning an unprecedented range of important government activities." One bill would simply exempt CIA files from the FOIA. Another would place a 10-year moratorium on release of information pertaining to criminal investigations.

The AAP listed Madeline Kalb's upcoming book, "Congo Cables" (*Macmillan*), dealing with the Congo crisis of the early '60s, as the latest example of works that relied on CIA and State Department cables obtained under the FOIA. Two other forthcoming books noted were "The Road to OPEC: United States Relations with Venezuela, 1919-1976," by Stephen G. Rabe (*University of Texas Press*) and "Crime of

the Century: The Kennedy Assassination From a Historian's Perspective," by Michael L. Kurtz (*University of Tennessee Press*).

Other books listed in the testimony were: Donald Neff's "Warriors at Suez: Eisenhower Takes America into the Middle East" (*Linden Press/Simon & Schuster*); Ben Schemmer's "The Raid" (*Harper & Row*); Michael Schaller's "The U.S. Crusade in China: 1943-1947" (*Columbia University Press*); Gregg F. Herken's "Winning Weapon: The Atomic Bomb in the Cold War: 1945-1950" (*Knopf*); Allen Weinstein's "Perjury: The Hiss-Chambers Case" (*Knopf*); William Shawcross's "Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia" (*Simon & Schuster*); Charles Higham's "Errol Flynn: The Untold Story" (*Double-day*); Thomas A. Breslin's "China, American Catholicism and the Missionary" (*Pennsylvania State University Press*); Frank J. Donner's "Age of Surveillance" (*Knopf*); Anthony Cave Brown's "Bodyguard of Lies" (*Harper & Row*) and Peter Wyden's "Bay of Pigs: The Untold Story" (*Simon & Schuster*).
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