

From: "Alex Knott" <aknott@publicintegrity.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 19, 2002 12:40 PM
Subject: Cancellation of 3 foias; addition on new one

FOIA/PA REQUEST
Case No: 2002-0426
Date Rec'd: 9/19/02
Action Off: Brown
Related Cases: _____

September 19, 2002

Dear Freedom of Information Act officer,

I am contacting you about three Freedom of Information Acts I sent to your office on September 10, 2002 asking for all correspondences between your agency and any congressional, executive and gubernatorial offices and their staffs during the last 10 years.

I am hereby asking for the complete termination of these three FOIAs. Following conversations with many agencies such as yours, I was told that my request was too broad and may result in large amounts of documents, many of which that could be billed to my organization.

Therefore, I am submitting the following FOIA that has an extremely limited scope that concerns the following people and their staffs: President George W. Bush; Vice President Dick Cheney; Former Vice President Al Gore; Gov. Howard Dean; Sen. John Edwards; Rep. Dick Gephardt; Sen. John Kerry; Sen. Joe Lieberman; Gov. Roy Barnes; Al Sharpton; Ralph Nader; Sen. Russ Feingold; Sen. John McCain; Rep. Marcy Kaptur; Sen. Tom Daschle; Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton; Sen. Joe Biden; and Sen. Chris Dodd.

I am hereby requesting all documents of correspondences, meetings and phone logs that your agency has that contain any of the names listed above and their staffs. By correspondences, I mean all letters, e-mails, sign-in sheets, phone logs and official meeting notes or minutes that are dated after August of 1997 between the above mentioned parties and your agency. In regards to congressional and gubernatorial members, I am also asking for any documents by any aforementioned individuals and identifiable members of their staffs. In regards to executive offices, I would like any documents from the individuals mentioned above and their staffs, including the Office of Management and Budget as well as the Executive Office of the President.

In an effort to eliminate unneeded materials, you may exclude routine documents dealing with budgetary matters, and routine government issuances and bulletins.

This is a request under the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, the common law of the United States, the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C.) section 552a. If all or some portion of my request is denied, please list the specific exemptions which are being claimed to withhold information. If you determine that some portions of the requested material are exempt, I will expect, as the Act provides, that you will provide me with the remaining non-exempt portions. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal any decision to withhold information and expect that you will list the address and office where such an appeal can be sent.

As you know, the amended FOIA permits you to reduce or waive search and/or copying fees when release of the requested information would be "in the public interest." The organization that I represent, the Center for Public Integrity, is a non-profit organization that publishes newsworthy information and I request this information for the purpose of newsgathering, not commercial use. I plan on using the following information to write a book about presidential candidates, which I think you will find is in the public's best interest. For this reason I believe that this request clearly falls into the distinction of "in the public interest" and I ask that these fees be waved. However, if your agency does determine that I should be charged for any part of this request, please contact me before any searches reach an estimate cost of \$25.

I appreciate your attention to this and expect, as the FOIA provides, to hear from your office within 20 days. If you have any questions about the nature or scope of this request, please call me at: 202-466-1300 ext. 151.

Sincerely,

AI/8

Alex Knott
Reporter for the Center for Public Integrity
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