

U.S. Department of Justice and issue a signing statement to mark the passage of the Act.<sup>2</sup>

In his signing statement, President Johnson wrote,

I know that the sponsors of this bill recognize these important interests and intend to provide for both the need of the public for access to information and the need of government to protect certain categories of information. Both are vital to the welfare of our people. Moreover, this bill in no way impairs the President's power under our [C]onstitution to provide for confidentiality when the national interest so requires.<sup>3</sup>

President Johnson's statement signals the very tension within the Freedom of Information Act: the need to balance the individual's right to have access to government information with the government's interest in being able to safeguard confidential information which

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Blanton, "Freedom of Information at 40," National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 194, The National Security Archive, available from World Wide Web: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB194/index.htm> (original FOIA produced documents with handwriting from presidential archives appear on this Web site).

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> See Lyndon Johnson, "Statement by President upon Signing the "Freedom of Information Act,"" July 4, 1966, in John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters, The American Presidency Project [online]. Santa Barbara, CA. Available from World Wide Web: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=27700>.