

20 September 1975

The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Montoya:

The purpose of this letter is to urge you with the strongest possible arguments to vote against Senate Bill 1, the "Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975".

This bill if enacted will be a travesty of the democratic principle of the desirability and need of the people to be informed about the actions and administration of their chosen form of government. And it may very well be unconstitutional.

The bill would make public protest against any revelation of secret government action a criminal act. It would put prior restraint on Newspaper editors and curtail the freedom of the press.

But worse than these and many other repressive measures of the bill, it would authorize concealment by the executive departments of the government of their own misdeeds, in pain of imprisonment for those with courage to expose them.

Senate Bill 1 is insufferable in concept and ideology and could well become the first long step in a slide into autocratic and dictatorial government.

Because of the importance of this matter, I, therefore, request that you answer this letter substantively so that I may better evaluate your qualification to represent the interest of the people of New Mexico and of the whole United States.

Yours respectfully,

