

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2552

To require that all Government records that contain information bearing on the last flight and disappearance of Amelia Earhart be transmitted to the Library of Congress and made available to the public.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 1993

Mrs. MINK introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Government Operations and House Administration

A BILL

To require that all Government records that contain information bearing on the last flight and disappearance of Amelia Earhart be transmitted to the Library of Congress and made available to the public.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act, "Executive agency" has the meaning
5 stated in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF RECORDS.**

2 By not later than the date that is ninety days after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Execu-
4 tive agency shall—

5 (1) conduct a search of all records in the con-
6 trol of the agency to identify each record that con-
7 tains information that is relevant to—

8 (A) the last flight of Amelia Earhart;

9 (B) the mechanical, navigational, meteorolo-
10 gical, or other problems that caused the end
11 of that flight; and

12 (C) the whereabouts of Amelia Earhart
13 and her navigator, Fred Noonan, and their air-
14 plane, following their disappearance;

15 (2) declassify any such relevant records that
16 have been classified as Government secrets; and

17 (3) transmit all such relevant records to the Li-
18 brarian of Congress.

19 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS.**

20 By not later than the date that is one hundred and
21 eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
22 Librarian of Congress shall create an index of records
23 transmitted to the Librarian under section 2 and make
24 the index and records available to the public.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127



ADVANCE TO: D. Harris - CL
M. Ross - FW

W3815(418)

DEC 29 1993

Memorandum

To: Chief, Legislation *Submittal 1-11-94*

From: Chief Historian

Subject: H.R. 2552, Amelia Earhart records

We recommend that the National Park Service oppose this bill.

The requirement that "each Executive agency . . . conduct a search of all records in the control of the agency" for records relevant to Earhart's last flight and disappearance is overly broad and burdensome. Only a few agencies would have had any records of this sort, and it should be possible to specify them. Because the flight occurred in 1937, most if not all such records probably are or should be in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

If the general purpose of the bill is deemed worthy, we believe that NARA should be charged with overall responsibility for the records search. We also believe that any relevant records should be transmitted to and/or retained at NARA, which is the designated recipient and custodian of official government records, rather than being sent to the Library of Congress.

Ed. Ross

Gary A. Condit, California, Chairman
Major Owens, New York
Karen Thurman, Florida
Lynn Woolsey, California
Bart Stupak, Michigan

ONE HUNDRED THIRD CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Information, Justice, Transportation, and Agriculture
Subcommittee

of the
Committee on Government Operations
b-349-C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 4, 1993

33664
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Ranking Minority Member
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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
10/15/93 2:10K

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Babbitt:

Babbitt
H.R. 2552, to require that all Government records that contain information bearing on the last flight and disappearance of Amelia Earhart be transmitted to the Library of Congress and made available to the public, has been referred to this Subcommittee. A copy of the bill is enclosed.

Please review the bill and provide the Subcommittee with any comments that your agency may have. While reviewing the bill, I would appreciate it if you would do the following:

- 1) Identify generally any records in your agency's possession that relate in any way to Amelia Earhart, Fred Noonan, or their disappearance. This includes any federal records generated or collected by the agency or its predecessors and any other records that may be in the custody of the agency.
- 2) Identify specifically any such records in your agency's possession that have not been made public. If there are no such records, please say that your search has not found any records.
- 3) Direct each agency component that might conceivably have such records to conduct a review. Please identify each component that reviewed its files in response to this request.

Thank you for your assistance. Your response within 30 days of the receipt of this letter would greatly assist the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

C. Condit
Gary A. Condit
Chairman