



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

November 11 1976.

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

Dear Mr. Sandler:

This is a follow-up to the conversation yesterday concerning the Kissinger papers. I have discovered one instance in Library history in which access was secured to a closed collection by Congressional subpoena. A special Senate committee investigating the munitions industry in 1935 sought access to the diaries of Robert Lansing, closed to 1949 by agreement with Mrs. Lansing, the donor. The Library declined requests by the committee for access. After the subpoena was served, the Acting Librarian directed that a committee staff member be allowed to see the diaries in the presence of a member of this Division. The diaries were not removed from Library premises, and the examination was completed in five successive days. About 20 items were subsequently photocopied for the committee. Allen Dulles, speaking for the Lansing-Dulles family, protested the committee action, and the Library itself, complying with the order, made special requests to Chairman Gerald Nye that information from the diaries be kept confidential.

That is the only instance I have been able to document of forced access to a closed collection, but our General Counsel informs me that a properly issued subpoena properly served would have to be honored. In any case, there has apparently been only one such instance and none in more than 40 years.

We shall welcome a visit by your security officer, and I stand ready to answer any additional questions that may arise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Broderick".

John C. Broderick
Chief

Mr. Michael D. Sandler
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