

PRESERVING FREEDOM THROUGH SECRECY

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2021 0509

Secrecy and Secret are not four letter words. Properly applied, secrets can be essential to our freedom. The secret ballot prevents the application of peer pressure, bullying, and reprisals should someone else disagree with they choices made. The secret elections held when a shop votes to join or not join a union brings the same benefit. In law enforcement, the secrecy of an undercover sting operation is essential to catching the criminal. In international conflict, the secret of when we will attack the enemy means lives saved or lost and perhaps even the outcome of the battle.

These secrets are clearly better than the alternative. Secret Ballots help preserve the freedom of choice. The Freedom of choice is the one Freedom upon which all others rest.

But not all ballots ought to be secret. The public vote in Congress preserves our ability to make an informed secret choice at election time. The knowledge of what organization is lobbying for against a particular bill allows us to make further assessments of our congressman's voting record. The knowledge of what organization or person has donated to a candidate's election allows us to assess the dynamics of that candidate's allegiance.

The trick is to build a system with the best divisions between secrecy and publicity.