

The Value to Democracy of the Freedom of Information Act

Kayla M. McCarthy

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, a law passed in 1966 is a federal freedom of information law that allows for the disclosure of previously unreleased information and documents controlled by the United States government, it is our only and current means to acquiring sealed information.



"A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a Farce, or a Tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."





A close-up photograph of Gene Wilder as Charlie Bucket from the 1971 film "Chocolat". He is wearing a brown top hat, a purple velvet suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a brown bow tie. He has a slight, knowing smile and is resting his head on his right hand.

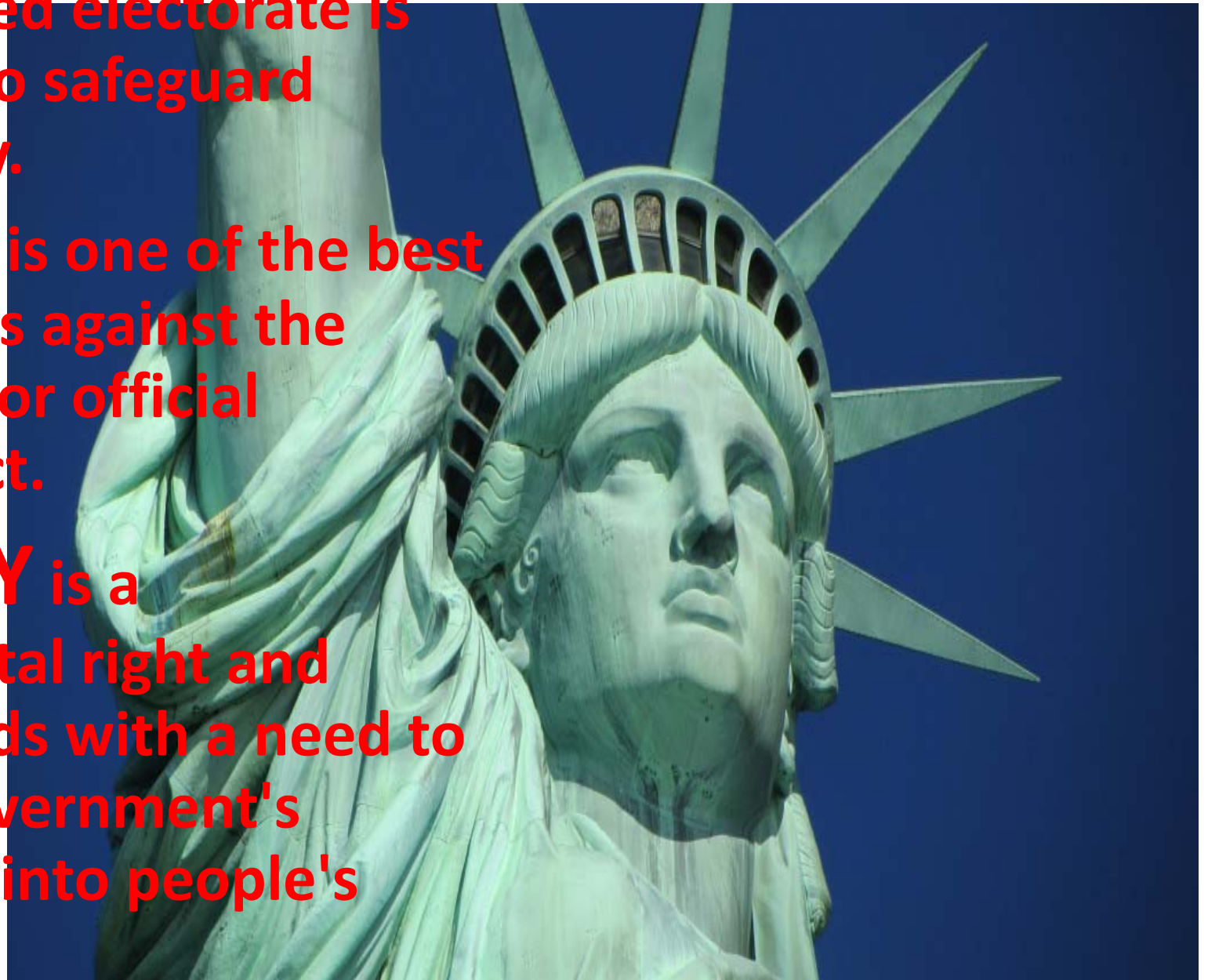
**Oh, you say you're well
informed on politics,**

**Please tell me about CNN and
Fox News' unbiased news
coverage.**

An informed electorate is essential to safeguard democracy.

PUBLICITY is one of the best protections against the potential for official misconduct.

PRIVACY is a fundamental right and corresponds with a need to restrict government's intrusions into people's lives.



Secrecy is endemic to bureaucracy





We could get a lot more done if we didn't have to let the public snoop so much!!

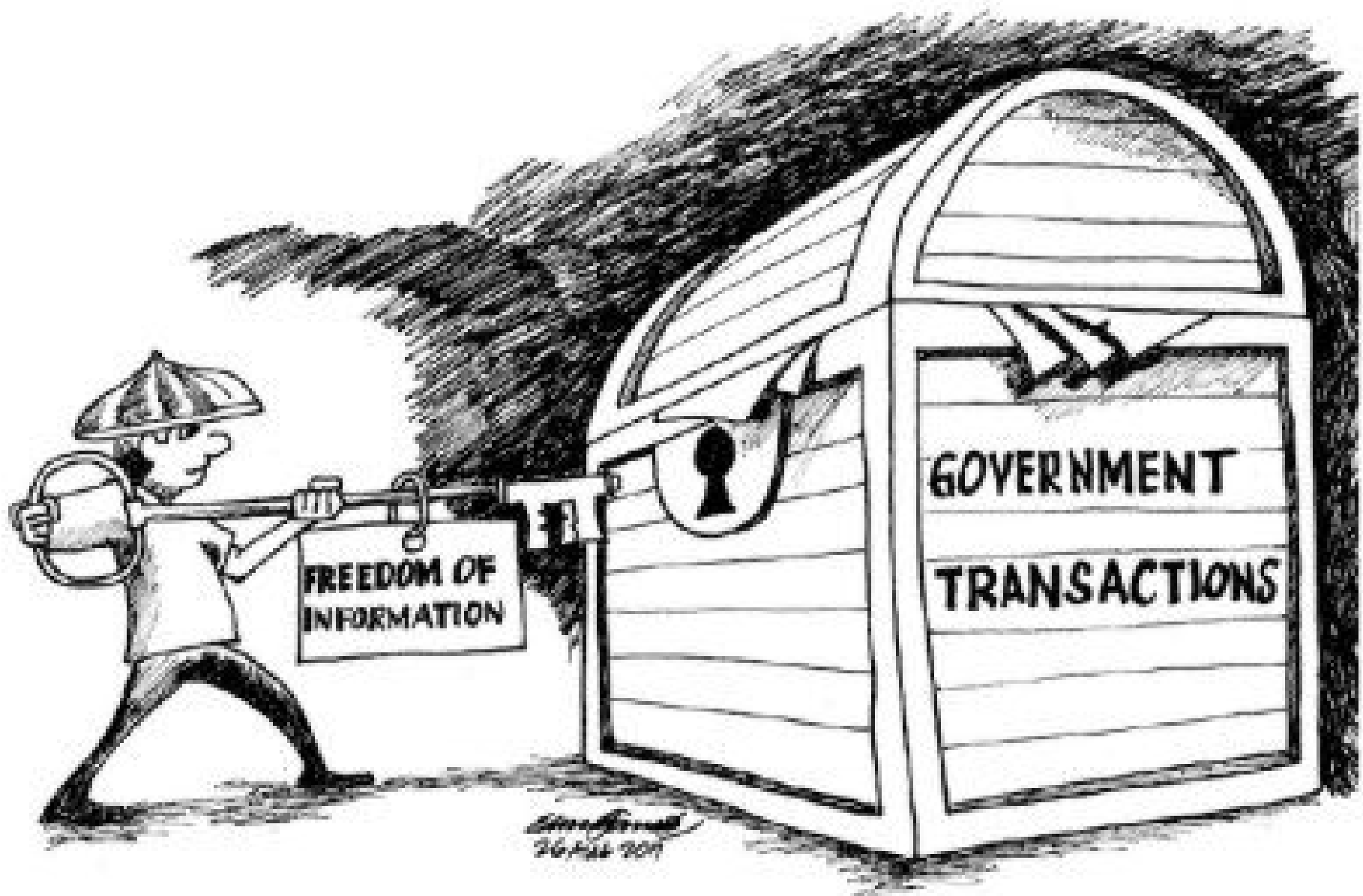
POLITICIANS

MEDIA

SMILEY CARICATURES THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

Unfortunately, cases of corruption in the public sector are, if anything, far too commonplace. Patronage appointments and providing cover for incompetent performance of favored individuals, groups, or political parties furthering policy goals that would not pass legal review

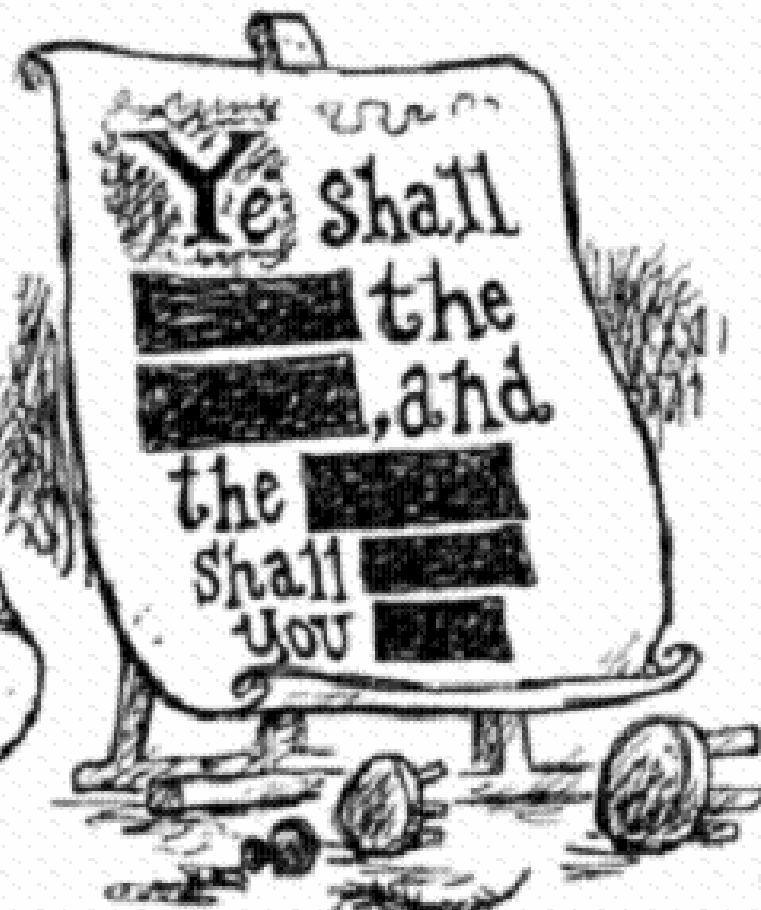
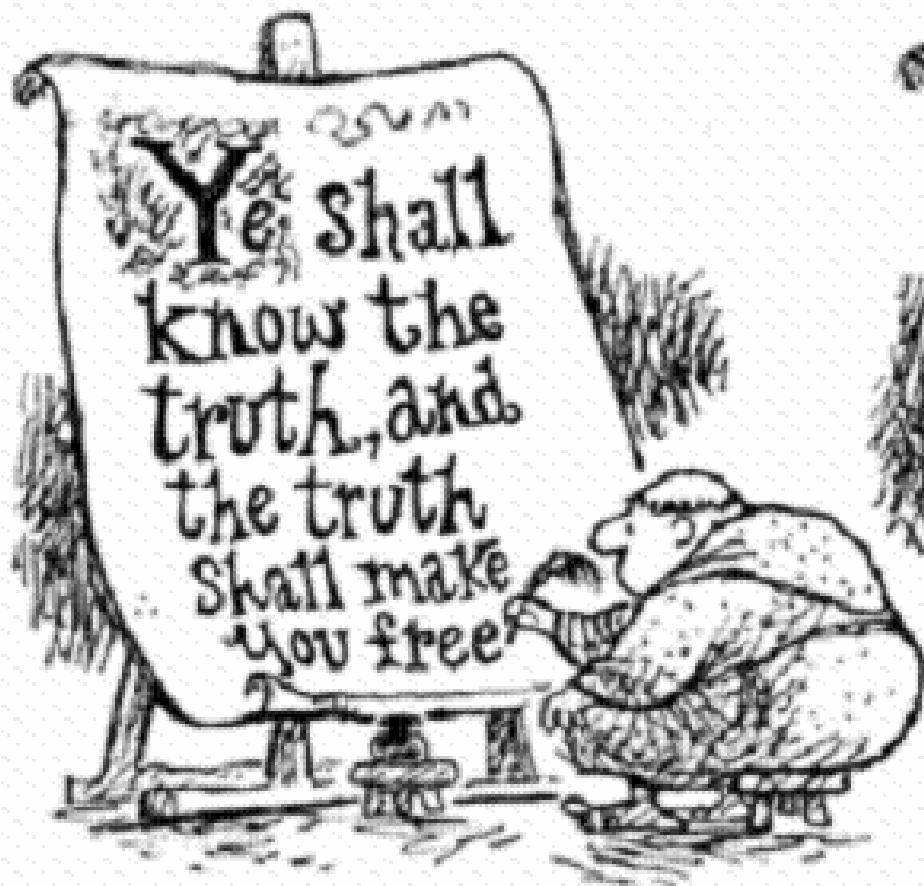






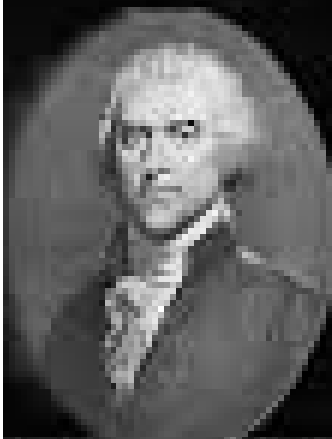
FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION....

REVISED AND
ABRIDGED



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ETTA
HULME

**INFORMATION IS THE
CURRENCY OF
DEMOCRACY.**




Thomas Jefferson

3rd U.S. President

QuoteHD.com

(1743-1826)



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. The text is overlaid on this background.

**If we are without Freedom
of Information**

**We will be without real
democracy**



THE VISION IS
A REAL
DEMOCRACY



Thank you