

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by)
John F. Danielle, et al.,)
Complainants) Report of Hearing Officer
against) Dockets #FIC78-231
Town of Cromwell and Cromwell) and
School Building Committee,)
Respondents) #FIC78-250
) February 7, 1979

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on January 18, 1979, at which time the complainants and the respondents appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. The respondents are public agencies within the meaning of §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. By letters filed with this Commission on November 15, 1978 and December 14, 1978, the complainants alleged a denial of their rights under §1-21a, G.S. in that the respondent committee had refused to allow them to tape-record the proceedings of public committee meetings on November 9 and November 16, 1978.
3. The complainants further alleged that, although the respondent committee agreed to permit the tape-recording of a meeting on November 20, 1978, the committee members then lowered their voices so that the proceedings were close to inaudible.
4. At hearing, the respondents agreed to allow the tape-recording of all future meetings in accordance with §§1-21a(a) and 1-21a(b), G.S.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed pursuant to the agreement of the parties to permit tape-recording of all future public meetings.
2. The respondents are cautioned that if the future proceedings of their meetings are inaudible to the public, this may effect a denial of the right of access to public meetings guaranteed under the Freedom of Information Act.

Judith Lahey
Commissioner Judith Lahey
as Hearing Officer