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Newsmen's Shield Law Passes Committee D

10-1 Tuesday for a bill that would allow reporters to keep confidential sources secret unless the Texas Supreme Court forced

The bill now goes to the Senate floor for debate.

Sen. Walter Mengden, R-Houston, voted against the bill on the ground it would lead ultimately to censorship of the press by the federal government.

"This is going to end up as the

Jurisprudence Committee voted sorship of the press," Mengden said. "It is my feeling that no law at all is better . . . It will lead to a controlled press by the federal government in our life-

Mengden echoed the argument that has been advanced by some that reporters should rely on the First Amendment in a case by case test of its guarantee of freedom of the press. Supporters of this view stress the narrowness of the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision last year that said reopening wedge that is going to porters could be forced to reveal

Biochemistry Team Searches For Iron Deficiency Test

By ROD SPEER News Editor

A research team in A&M's Biochemistry Department is trying to find a practical test to diagnose iron loss in the body before the condition becomes overtly anemic.

The team's research is centered around the iron transport of the protein transferrin through the circulatory system. Dr. George Bates, head of the research study, said that transferrin is being studied from its molecular standpoint through its nutritional aspects with the hope of being able to diagnose latent iron deficiencies.

Although no one has ever died from lack of iron, Bates said, it is a major problem today as about a billion people have some sort of iron deficiency. Women are especially susceptible since they lose blood in their menstrual cycle and, if pregnant, give iron to their babies.

"Loss of iron results in anemia, characterized by fatigue and a lack of vitality," Bates said. "Under this condition the hemoglobin (the respiratory pigment in red corpuscles) level drops by 20 per

Bates has a technique of determining the iron content of the blood in his lab but it is too expensive for hospital use. "This method is 93 per cent efficient and superior to anything on the market," he said. Bates hopes to have his method 98 per cent efficient in the next month.

Currently hospital labs can determine iron content of anemic patients only. But even this is not totally effective, according to Bates, since "most of the iron reagents they use don't react with transferrin all the time."

"They can't determine accurately the saturation of the transferrin binding sites," he ex-

The researchers formerly used large New Zealand rabbits to get

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blood for experimentation but have now switched to human blood. Most of it comes from a distributor although the researchers do donate some them-

Bates received his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California where he worked with Dr. Paul Saltman on iron in food additives. Together they found that ferric fructose, a molecule of sugar and iron, is three times more efficient in assimilating into the body than currently used iron complexes. Saltman was at A&M in February as a SCONA XVIII speaker.

Bates did post-doctoral studies on iron at the University of Rome for a year and a half before working with the National Cancer Institute on iron in white blood cells.

The assistant professor has two graduate and four undergraduate students aiding him in his research. One of the undergraduates, Michael Schlabach, a senior biochemistry major, has had three articles and four abstracts published in major scientific publications, including one in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Ag Honored

Glenn Whitley of Big Spring, an A&M doctoral student, has won top honors in graduate student paper competition sponsored by the Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geog-

Whitley's award-winning paper, judged best in a four-state region, is entitled "Domestic Tree Ducks." The history of this duck, said to have the strangest distribution of any bird in the world, is considered important in geographical studies, particularly as they pertain to the movement of

Those who take this position say the court may overturn that decision at a later time, or in any event it will not permit "fishing expeditions" by grand juries. But if Congress and legislatures start passing shield laws for reporters, they might later adopt guidelines for accreditation or for reporting, this argument goes.

The bill passed by the Senate committee already has passed the House, but without the amendment that would allow the Texas Supreme Court to force disclosure.

Rep. David Allred, D-Wichita Falls, said Monday: "I will not accept this version when it comes back to the House and will move for the appointment of a conference committee to adjust the differences in the two bills."

Also added by the Senate committee is a section shielding any "ordained minister, priest, rabbi or duly accredited Christian Science practitioner of established church or religious organization' from having to testify on anything told to him in conference in his professional capacity. A judge could compel disclosure by clerics, however, if he feels it "is necessary to a proper administration of justice."

The Texas Supreme Court could order a reporter to dis-close his source "if it is proven

Quartet Gets \$1,000 Grant

Quartet, a magazine of the arts published at A&M, has received a \$1,000 award from the Texas Commission on the Arts and

This award is the first such honor given by the Commission to a literary publication.

Quartet is published four times a year, and its current issue is devoted to humor.

It accepts assistance and contributions from A&M faculty members and students. "Ollie, the Glass Harmonica, and the Five-Hundred Horsepower Pelvis," the work of John Mackey, an A&M junior, is one of the first undergraduate works of fiction ever published by Quartet.

The magazine originated at Purdue in 1962 and was established at A&M in 1970 by the editor-publisher, Prof. Richard H.

Assistance is provided by Prof. W. G. Horsley, Prof. Karl Elmquist and Dr. Elizabeth Turpin. A special issue is planned for the fall devoted to the creative work of prison inmates.



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dence that the information cannot be obtained by any alternative means and that the withholding of such information would cause or threaten substantial harm or injury, endanger public health and welfare or cause substantial injustice."

Mengden asked the Senate sponsor of the bill, Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, if the bill would allow the shield to be pierced in the case of a news report last Sunday that the CIA plotted the My Lai massacre in Vietnam in 1968.

The reporter, Jack Taylor of the Daily Oklahoman, said his source for the story agreed to talk only if they were guaranteed anonymity.

Mengden said there was no way of determining if the story was made up. And if it was

certainly endangers the welfare.'

Brooks said any citizen petition the Texas Sun Court to force disclosure, would be up to the court it. In the case Mengden the Texas court would no jurisdiction over an Okl

Sen. Jack Ogg, D.He asked what guarantee the that the shield would not be by an underground news Mengden suggested the M could start a newspape

claim the shield. Brooks said one of the definitions of a newspape publication "entered at a l States post office as second matter." He said the posts thorities are careful in ch who gets second-class per

Bulletin Board

A&M Tennis Club will meet in Rooms 2A and 2B of the MSC at 2D of the MSC at 7:30. 7:30 p.m.

will hold elections and discuss its party at 7:30 p.m. in Room 304 of the Physics Building.

A&M Sports Car Club will discuss its April Fools Rallye in the Mimosa Room of the Old College Station City Hall, 101 Church Avenue, at 7:30 p.m.

Great Issues Committee will give students a chance to question candidates for Thursday's elections from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.

Junior Class will meet in Room 302 of the Physics Building at Club will plan a beerbust in

Weightlifting Club will 7 in the G. Rollie White Wei room to arrange transpo for the weekend meet THURSDAY

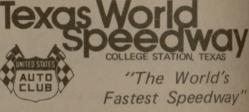
MSC Radio Committee its picture taken at 6 p the fountain at the Zach neering Center and hold at at 7:30 p.m. in Room 3B

Association of Students Mexico will meet in the MS Room at 7:30. A&M Collegiate Horsen

sociation will have its

taken in the Animal I

Building Lecture Room Please wear coats and the



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