

Newsman's Rights Conflict Shifts To State Legislatures

By LOUISE COOK
Associated Press Writer

The action in the conflict over a newsman's right to protect his sources has shifted from the courts to the legislative chamber.

Federal and state lawmakers are debating a wide variety of bills that would give newsmen partial or complete immunity from being forced to disclose sources of confidential information.

The House Judiciary Committee ended hearings last month on the subject of newsmen's privilege and a subcommittee headed by U. S. Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, D-Wis., has met twice to try to reach a consensus.

The Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, headed by U. S. Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., also held lengthy hearings last month, but has taken no action.

Most of the bills fall into two basic categories — one group provides newsmen with unqualified immunity from testifying about their sources before any grand jury or legislative investigation; the other offers limited immunity.

In the House, for example, a bill co-sponsored by five Republicans would provide absolute privilege for newsmen with regard to investigative proceedings before government agencies, fed-

eral grand juries or congressional communities.

It would provide only limited privilege in civil or criminal proceedings in federal courts. Newsmen could be required to disclose confidential information or sources if the court found that the material was relevant to a significant issue in the case and could not be obtained elsewhere.

Another House bill, introduced by John B. Anderson of Illinois, also a Republican, would give professional newsmen unqualified protection from federal or state court orders to reveal confidential news sources or information.

Anderson said any qualifications in a press shield bill would provide loopholes for attorneys on "fishing expeditions."

The American Newspaper Publishers Association and other press groups have urged approval of an unqualified shield law.

Congressional sources say, however, that chances for such a measure are slim. "They're not going to get anything strong out of the subcommittee," said Lawrence Baskir, counsel to the Sen-

ate subcommittee.

Ervin himself said earlier, "I don't believe Congress will pass an unqualified privilege bill."

The U. S. Supreme Court ruled last year that the First Amendment to the Constitution does not give newsmen a special exemption from testifying before a grand jury about information gained in confidence. Several reporters have gone to jail for contempt of court rather than disclose their sources.

Earl Caldwell, a New York Times reporter and one of those involved in the cases that led to the court ruling, told the House hearings that since the decision "we have seen prosecutors and judges emboldened by the notion that reporters can become . . . investigative arms of the law enforcement process."

The court refused Monday to hear the case of David M. Lightman, a Baltimore Evening Sun reporter who was cited for con-

tempt by a county grand jury for refusing to reveal the source of a 1971 article.

Lightman claimed the probe was motivated by a desire by the grand jury to harass his newspaper. A special state court of appeals had upheld the contempt citation, ruling that Lightman himself was the "source" of the story which involved marijuana.

Earlier, the court declined to hear a petition from Peter Bridgeman — jailed for 21 days for refusing to answer some questions in a grand jury probe involving the Newark, N.J., housing authority.

Bridgeman had appealed state court rulings upholding his citation for contempt of the Essex County grand jury and asked the court to rule that grand juries be required to show a compelling need before they question newsmen.

New Jersey lawmakers passed a bill earlier this year that would have given newsmen broad immunity from testifying but it was vetoed by Gov. William T. Cahill.

Elsewhere at the state level, developments included:

Connecticut—a proposed shield law died in committee April 10 after an argument over the ex-

tent to which sources should be protected.

Tennessee — Gov. Winfield Dunn signed into law on April 5 a bill forbidding lower courts to subpoena newsmen without first showing "overriding" public interest to an appellate court.



GINGER WHITACRE was crowned Queen Cotton during the 39th annual Cotton Pageant and Ball. The festival, sponsored by the student Agronomy Society, pays homage to the state's cotton industry.

Library Art Prints Due Friday

Art prints in the Library's lending collection are due Friday, Circulation Librarian Mel Dodd reminded.

Students who borrowed the works of renown artists in January should check the prints in at the main desk. The 80 ready-

to-display prints will be prepared for summer loan. They are loaned only to A&M students.

Borrowers are responsible for lost or damaged prints. Replacement cost ranges from \$25 to \$40.

Services Building Dedication Slated

Dedication of A&M's Services Building has been set for 2 p.m. April 30.

The building will be renamed the "Reed McDonald Building" and a cast bronze plaque will be placed in the entrance, according to Dr. H. O. Kunkel, Dean of Agriculture.

Kunkel explained that McDon-

ald, a former director of the Feed and Fertilizer Control Service housed in the building and a longtime member of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station staff, died in December of 1971.

President Jack K. Williams will serve as chairman for the dedication program, to be held in the Zachry Engineering Center Auditorium.

Featured as the dedication speaker will be State Senator Max R. Sherman of Amarillo, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Sub-committee on Agriculture. Sherman will be introduced by State Senator William T. (Bill) Moore of Bryan.

Clyde H. Wells of Granbury, president of the Board of Directors for the A&M University System, will give the response.

The plaque to be placed at the entrance to the McDonald Building bears this inscription: "In memory of Reed McDonald, whose efforts inspired enactment of the Texas Commercial Feed Control Act of 1957 and the Texas Commercial Fertilizer Control Act of 1961, and who served as first director of the State Feed and Fertilizer Control Service, 1961-1971."

Tours of the McDonald Building will follow the program, according to Dr. Flake Fisher of the Experiment Station staff and current director of the Feed and Fertilizer Control Service.

McDonald began his career with Texas A&M as a mailing clerk for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in 1927, and later served as assistant cashier for Extension fiscal affairs. He also served as executive assistant for the Experiment Station for four years and was assistant comptroller for the A&M University System from 1949 to 1955. He became auditor for the Feed Control Service in 1955 and became its director in 1959. The agency was changed to the Feed and Fertilizer Control Service in 1961.

The building also houses the Department of Agricultural Communications and Publications, Student Publications, the Journalism Department, Texas Transportation Institute Publications, Agricultural Analytical Services, Thermo-dynamics Research Center Services and Faculty Mail Service.

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Degree: Ph.D. in Plant Breeding
Dissertation: GENETIC VARIATION AND HYPEROSIS FOR PHOTOSYNTHETIC RATE IN OATS.
Time: April 27, 1973 at 9:00 a. m.
Place: Room 105 in Agronomy Bldg.
George W. Kunze
Dean of the Graduate College

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Elliff, Gerald Allen, Jr.
Degree: Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering
Dissertation: AN ECONOMIC B A S I S WITH INSPECTOR ACCURACY CONSIDERATIONS FOR DESIGN OF A MULTI-LEVEL CONTINUOUS SAMPLING PLAN.
Time: May 2, 1973 at 10:00 a. m.
Place: Room 301 in Zachry Bldg.
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Dean of the Graduate College

MAY GRADUATES DEPARTING FROM THE BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION AREA.
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ATTENTION MAY GRADUATES! You may pick up graduation announcements now, Room 216 A & B 8:00-4:00, Student Programs, New MSC. Extra announcements go on sale April 17. 24618

REGALIA FOR THE MAY 1973 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education are required to order hoods as well as the Doctor's cap and gown. The hoods are to be left by the University Exchange Store for delivery by a representative of the Exchange Store to the Registrar's Office no later than 1:00 p. m., Wednesday, May 2. The Ph.D. or D.Ed. hoods will not be worn in the procession since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage as part of the ceremony. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the cap and gown; all civilian students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the appropriate uniform. All military personnel who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the cap, gown, and hood at the Exchange Store between Monday, April 9, 1973 through noon Saturday, April 14, 1973. Only Doctor's caps, gowns, and hoods will be available on a rental basis. The Master's and Bachelor's caps and gowns may be purchased at the Exchange Store. Rental fees and sale prices are as follows: Doctor's Cap & Gown \$7.88 (rental), Doctor's Cap, Gown & Hood \$15.76 (rental), Master's Cap & Gown \$7.61 (sale), Master's Cap, Gown and Hood \$15.23 (rental), Bachelor's Cap & Gown \$9.93 (sale), Bachelor's Cap, Gown & Hood \$13.86 (rental). All prices include sales tax. Payment is required at the time of placing the order. 23421f

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FAMILY AND STUDENT SECTIONS.

Bulletin Board
TONIGHT
Cepheid Variable Science Fiction Committee will meet at 6:30 in Room M of the Student Programs Office in the new Memorial Student Center.
MSC Bridge Subcommittee will meet in Room 3B of the MSC at 7:30 p.m.
A&M Sports Car Club will elect officers and view three race films at 7:30 p.m. in the Mimosa Room of the Old College Station City Hall, 101 Church Ave.
THURSDAY
Radio Committee will discuss summer organizations in Room 3C of the MSC at 7:30 p.m.
A&M Collegiate Horseman's Association will elect officers at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall of the Animal Industries Building.

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