

National

Reagan asking to put lid on files

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration asked Congress Thursday to allow the government to exempt its files on terrorism, organized crime and foreign counter-intelligence from the Freedom of Information Act.

Under the proposal submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee by the Justice Department, the attorney general would be able to decide to make the files public, either in broad categories or in specific cases — but otherwise they would remain secret.

"This procedure would allow the attorney general to continue to permit access to such files where disclosure would not endanger personal safety or impair law enforcement," a Justice Department statement said.

intelligence program in the mid-1970s would have been impossible.

The disclosures, as a result of media requests under the act, revealed the FBI had spent millions of dollars on dirty tricks to thwart extremist organizations under its Cointelpro program in the 1960s.

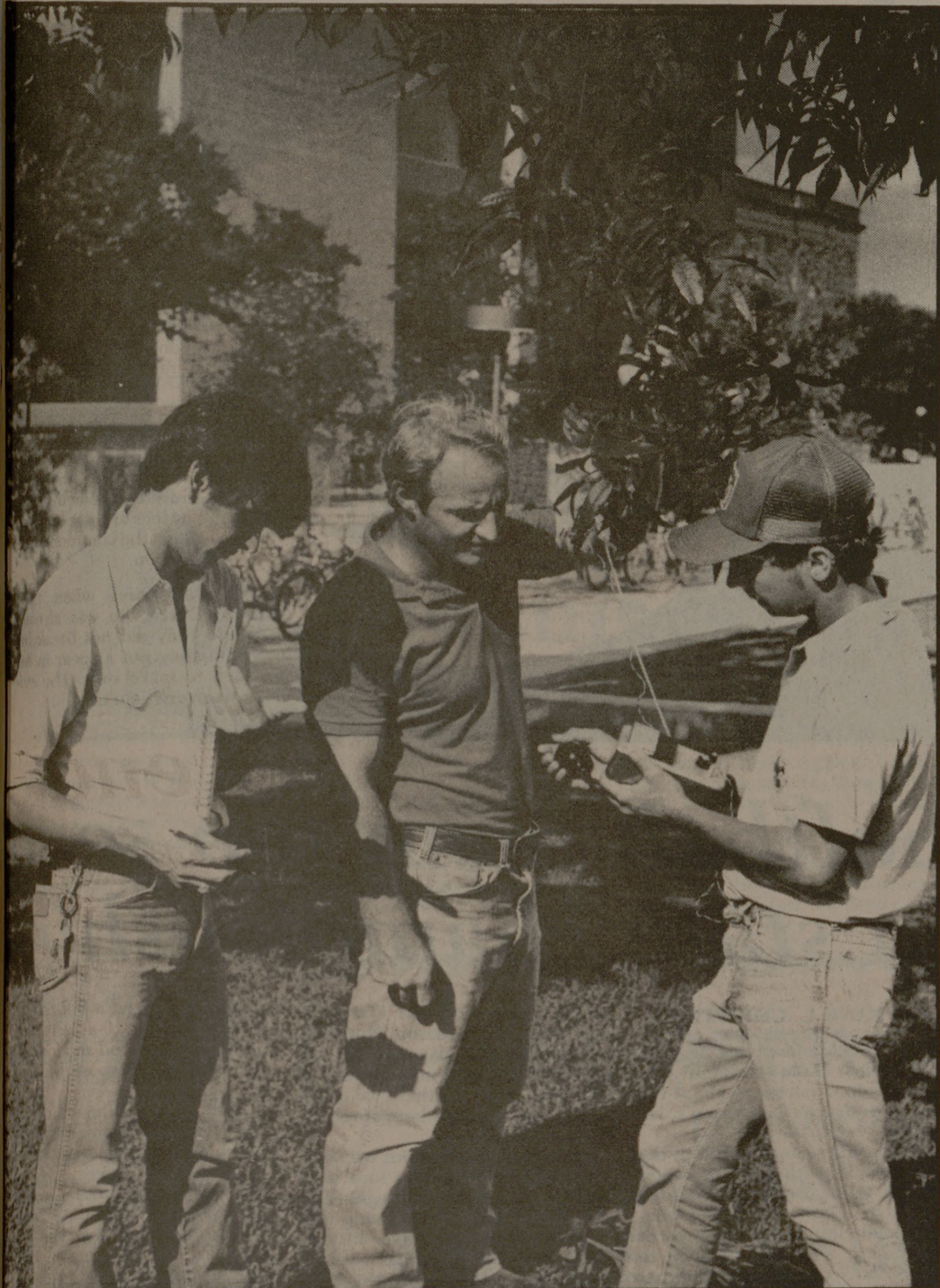
Landau testified amendments already proposed by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah., chairman of the subcommittee, and other senators would mutilate the act.

He testified neither the CIA nor the FBI can point to the forced disclosure of the identify of a confidential federal government source in the 15 years of the act's existence.

The administration says the Freedom of Information Act has seriously hampered intelligence gathering and law enforcement by making potential informants afraid of their identities being disclosed under the act.

Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Rose presented a broad overview of the proposal in testimony before the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on the Constitution, but the bill itself was not immediately available.

Jack Landau, director of the Reporters' Committee for Freedom of the Press, said without the Freedom of Information Act, the massive public disclosures of the FBI's undercover counter-



Staff Photo by Brian Tate

Are trees warm-blooded?

No, but they do have temperature, and that is what Mark McIntyre (left), Barry Hill (center) and Ray Ullrich are checking. With the diffusion meter that Ullrich has, a leaf's temperature can be read, as well as its wa-

ter diffusion rate — how fast water spreads through the leaf. The three range science majors are doing the work as part of their physiology 313 lab, under the instruction of Tim Sherman.

Effects of waste probed by book

United Press International
NEW YORK — The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation said Thursday a new guidebook will aid health detectives probing environments for possible hazards to unborn babies and hopefully prevent future Love Canals.

The book, "Guidelines for Studies of Human Populations Exposed to Mutagenic and Reproductive Hazards," is dedicated "to the residents, past and present, of the Love Canal of New York State; lest you think it was all in vain."

The book aims to improve and coordinate scientific efforts to determine whether toxic chemical wastes and other environmental agents present significant risk of causing spontaneous abortion, birth defects, fetal and newborn deaths, early childhood cancer or inheritable genetic damage.

The toxic waste dump at Love Canal has become a symbol of how disorganized or delayed assessment of environmental contami-

nation can compound the concern of exposed residents and government officials to whom they turn for help.

"The 163-page special report describes state-of-the-art methods for detecting and measuring risks as a basis for prompt, rational action in emergencies, and for long-term preventive planning and public policy," Foundation officials said.

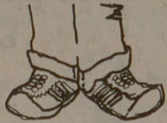
The "Guidelines" were developed by scientists at a conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the March of Dimes Foundation and four government agencies — the Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Private industry, independent and government research laboratories and universities were represented on three panels focusing on aspects of the problem.

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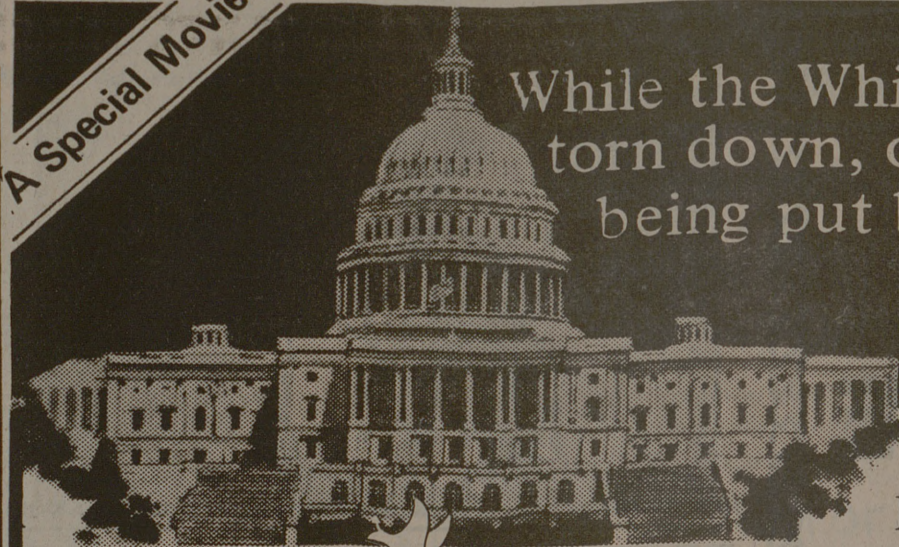


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