

Third bill coming

Open meetings discussed

SALEM (Special) — "There is a crying need for more comprehensive laws dealing with accessibility to government records and to prohibit secret meetings among government officials," Attorney General Lee Johnson told a Joint Committee on Professional Responsibilities Monday.

Johnson was testifying before the committee during the first hearing on "the open meetings bills," one of which has been introduced at his request (HB 2157).

Presently, Johnson said, government agencies can and do conceal "important public information." He said this problem and the problem of secret meeting by governmental bodies would be eliminated under his bill, which establishes, with few exceptions, government records and meetings of governmental bodies must be public.

Another bill dealing with governmental openness (SB 15) has been introduced by Sen. Fred Heard (D-Klamath Falls), but only provides for open meetings of "a legislative body of a public agency."

After reviewing the two bills and testimony on the subject, the Professional Responsibilities Committee must decide which bill, if any, should be adopted.

Further testimony in favor of an "open meetings bill" came Monday from representatives of Common Cause, a nationwide citizen lobby group.

Dolores Hurado, co-chairer of the Oregon

organization, told the committee, "Oregon Common Cause is concerned that public confidence in government is at a low point in this country." And she said, "There is no more important step in rebuilding public trust than passage of an adequate open meetings bill."

Hurado said that although Common Cause supports an open meetings bill, the group is not satisfied with either of the bills the committee is presently considering.

Later this week, another "open meetings bill" which covers some problems ignored in the SB 15 and HB 2157 will be introduced at the request of Common Cause, she reported.

"Our Bill contains what we believe to be the essential ingredients of a good open meetings law," Hurado said. "Such a law would require open meetings of all public bodies and their committees after adequate and timely public notice, individually recorded votes on all issues, prompt transcription of and public access to minutes of proceedings and appropriate sanctions when these requirements are not met."

She told the committee that other Common Cause members will report instances where they found government records and meetings of government bodies closed.

Another hearing on the issue is scheduled for 7 p.m. next Monday in room 20 of the Capitol.

Shield bill sent back to committee

SALEM (Special) — The degree of reporter shield "qualification" and vagueness in the definition of a "newsman" stalled the passage of the "reporter's shield bill" in the Senate Tuesday.

Acting on a resolution by Sen. Tom Hartung (R-Washington County) the Senate voted 15-14 to re-refer the bill to the Special Committee on Professional Responsibilities.

Sen. John Burns (D-Portland) stated, "The confrontation is not whether or not we shall have a shield law — but rather whether there should be an unqualified shield law — a privilege granted to no one else."

Hartung, an original sponsor of the bill who was the only senator to vote against it in committee, said, "The major defect in the bill is that we haven't made a definition of a 'newsman.' I don't think we should leave the definition to the court."

Hartung stated that the committee should re-consider propositions made by the American Civil Liberties Union and Eugene lawyer William Frye which would add qualifications on reporter's confidentiality of sources.

In its present form the bill would establish a relatively unqualified law protecting reporters from being forced to reveal information and sources.

Sen. L.W. Newbry (R-Klamath County) stated that the bill was not sufficiently specific in its definition of "medium of communication" and "person gathering information."

Newbry stated that a person could contend in court that they were only gathering information for dissemination to the public through, for example, a pamphlet, and thus come under the provisions of the bill.

Hartung felt that with its rather unqualified provisions, the bill protected responsible and irresponsible reporters equally, making no differentiation between the two.

Several senators voiced objections on the floor to what they termed a "lack of accountability."

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New film class set for spring

The films of Luis Bunuel, a Spanish director, will be the subject of a new class next term. The class is being taught by Miguel Sobre, instructor of Romance Languages, and his wife Judith, assistant professor of Art History.

Miguel Sobre said the class grew out of discussion between him and his wife. "When we go to see films, she is concerned with the way it looks, while I am concerned with what it says. So we decided to combine forces."

Ten of Bunuel's films will be seen during the class. The films will be shown on Friday nights, and there will be two discussions during the week.

Bunuel's films were made in Spain, France and Mexico. Most of them are in Spanish with English subtitles, but some are in French. The early films are silent, but music has been added. Two of the silent films are *Un Chien Andalou* (1927), which has been previously shown at the University, and *Land Without Bread* (1932).

To cover the cost of the films, students will be charged \$6 for a season ticket. The films will be shown in 177 Lawrence, and the class is limited only to the capacity of the room, about 150.

The class is being sponsored by three departments: Romance Languages, Arts and Letters and Art History. It is a 407 and 507 seminar.



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