

Senators modify criminal laws

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators sponsoring a bill to revise federal criminal laws agreed Tuesday to drop provisions restoring the death penalty in some federal crimes.

Sens. John McClellan, D-Ark., and Roman Hruska, R-Neb., chief sponsors, offered major concessions in negotiations over the measure to consolidate the criminal laws into a single code.

They said they were willing to drop limited restoration of the death penalty and also to leave unchanged present laws against espionage and disclosure of classified information.

They also agreed to other modifications in the bill but balked at others urged by a trio of Senate Judiciary Committee liberals with whom they have been negotiating.

The three, Sens. Philip Hart, D-Mich., Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and James Abourezk, S-S.D., said this had helped to narrow the differences.

Still in dispute are controls on obscene materials, mandatory sentences for drug traffickers and such issues as confessions, sabotage and legal defenses.

Senate leaders of both parties had urged conservatives and liberals to try to reconcile their differences over the bill, 90 to 95 per cent of which they said was regarded as "a non-controversial improvement over existing federal criminal laws."

At the moment further negotiations seem to be at a standstill.

McClellan and Hruska said they agreed to drop the death penalty provisions only because the issue is now before the Supreme Court and it seemed appropriate to have "the benefit and guidance" of its decision before Congress acts.

The bill had provided for the death penalty for treason, espionage and other major crimes such as kidnaping or aircraft hijacking resulting in death, depending on the presence or absence of certain aggravating or mitigating factors.

McClellan and Hruska said they had agreed "with a great deal of reluctance" to accept repeal of the Smith Act, which makes it a crime to advocate the violent overthrow of the government.

Applications due today

Today is the last day to file for ASUO president, Incidental Fee Committee (IFC), and OSPIRG positions.

Potential candidates must submit a petition and voter's guide statement by 5 p.m. today. Word limit on the voter's guide statement is 500 words for ASUO president, 150 words for IFC candidates and 100 words for OSPIRG. Both petitions and voter's guide statements must be filed in Suite 4, EMU.

Office closed temporarily

The Office of Student Financial Aid will be closed from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. Office hours for those

three days will be 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The office is working on converting from a manual to a computerized system.

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Task force needs students

The ASUO is seeking two students to serve on the newly-formed ASUO Title IX Task Force. Title IX deals with sex discrimination.

The task force will "advise the ASUO of requirements under the law which pertain to student employment, student appointments, committee appointments and student rights," says Dan Garner, ASUO administrative assistant and executive representative to the new committee.

The ASUO task force will provide assistance to and work with the University Title IX Task Force, but will concentrate its work on recipients of ASUO incidental fees.

Creation of the force was recommended by the ASUO Affirmative Action Committee. Affirmative Action differs from Title IX because the former is an executive order rather than legislation and deals with all forms of discrimination, including sex discrimination.

Members of the Title IX committee will include two students-at-large and student representatives from both the University Title IX Task Force and ASUO Affirmative Action, in addition to an ASUO representative.

The only qualifications for the two student members are concern, interest and a time commitment of two hours a week that will be devoted to research and meetings, says Garner.

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