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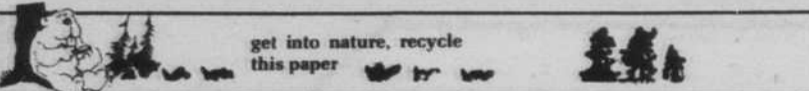
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U.S. criminal code revisions unconstitutional, says activist

By Phil Lemman
Of the Emerald

To put it mildly, Frank Wilkinson is unhappy with current congressional efforts to revamp the aged U.S. criminal code.

While the changes are being proposed in the name of political conservatism, "there is nothing conservative about undermining the U.S. Constitution," Wilkinson said.

An American Civil Liberties Union board member and veteran political activist, Wilkinson has been campaigning in the past two months against Senate Bill 1630, the bill proposing the criminal code changes. In a speech Wednesday night, Wilkinson said the bill directly contradicts the First and Eighth Amendments to the Constitution and would deprive Americans of the due process rights won during the years when liberal Chief Justice Earl Warren was on the Supreme Court.

Wilkinson began his long list of complaints about the bill by condemning the Moral Majority.

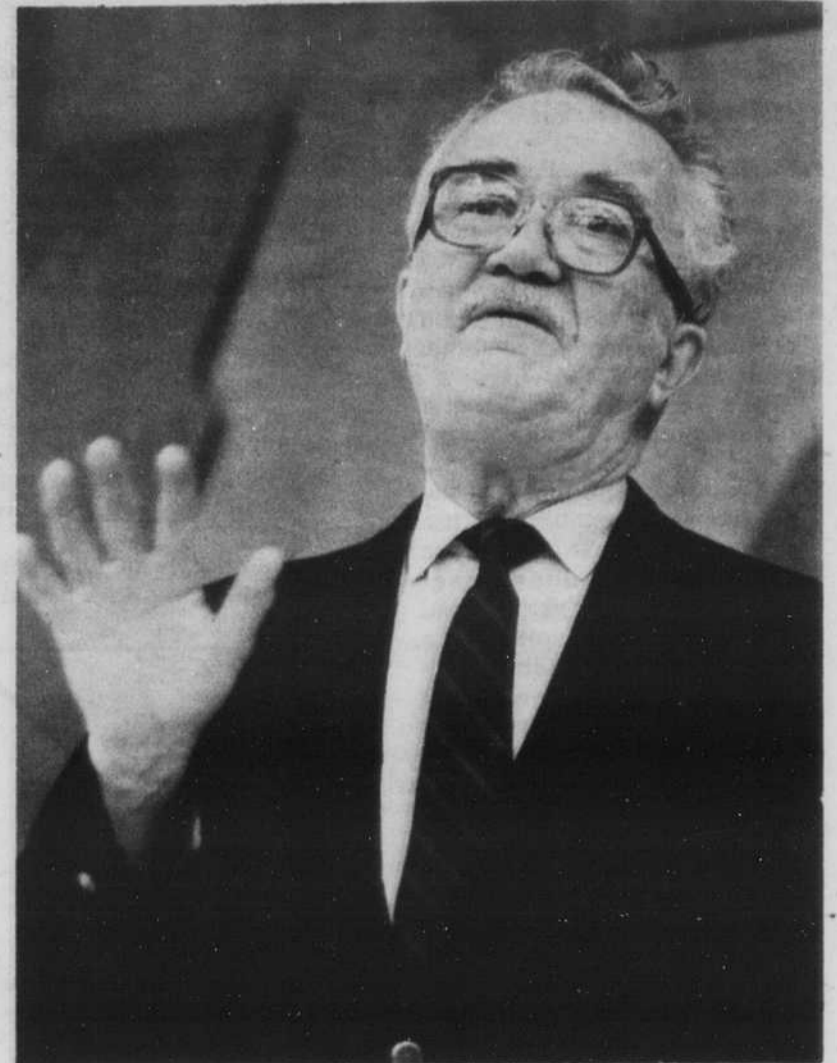
"The Moral Majority is not a religious organization, it is a lobby in Washington," he said.

The Moral Majority raised \$65 million last year, twice as much as was raised by the Republican Party, but received reduced postage rates and paid no taxes because of its religious affiliation, he said.

Any of the 22 amendments the Moral Majority has proposed to SB 1630 would be adopted on the Senate floor, denying the opportunity for testimony in committee hearings, he added. Wilkinson said he expects about half of the amendments to be approved by the Senate.

The 2-inch-thick bill, along with recent executive orders allowing increased intelligence activities and classification of government documents, is the largest assault on American constitutional rights since the McCarthy era in the 1950s, he said.

Anti-nuclear groups are most likely to be endangered by the bill, he said. The bill would make



Frank Wilkinson Photo by David Corey

someone attending a meeting to plan a protest subject to a 6-month jail sentence and \$10,000 fine regardless of whether the protest ever takes place, he said.

A maximum sentence of six years in prison and a \$250,000 fine could be imposed for anyone who counsels a potential conscientious objector or pickets a post office during draft registration if the bill is passed in its present form, Wilkinson said.

A civilian writing or speaking out against an undeclared war could be guilty of a crime under the proposed revisions if the military determines that their communication may incite insubordination, he said.

"We have not had a declared war since World War II," Wilkin-

son said. "Korea was Harry Truman's police action, Vietnam was Lyndon Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and who knows what Reagan will come up with."

Also among the 22 amendments to SB 1630 proposed by the Moral Majority is a measure that would make distribution of information about abortions a felony.

A Library of Congress study commissioned by former Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman, D-New York, estimated that the federal prison population would increase 62 to 92 percent if SB 1630 passed. Pres. Reagan has proposed that the increased jail space needed to accommodate the additional prisoners would come from unused military barracks.

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