

At Least 100 Bills Introduced To Combat Secrecy in Government

New York—(U.P.)—At least 100 bills designed to combat secrecy in government operations were introduced at current or recent sessions of the nation's state legislatures, a United Press survey has revealed.

Bill to Plug Leaks Of Information to Be Introduced Soon

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) said Saturday he will introduce legislation to plug leaks of secret information from such quasi-judicial government agencies as the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Jackson is acting chairman of the Senate Investigating Subcommittee which is looking into the leak of a CAB decision last year on the lucrative New York-Miami airline route.

Jackson told reporters that at the conclusion of the investigation he plans to offer legislation that would bind the quasi-judicial agencies "by high ethical standards" similar to those of the Supreme Court.

Plug Big Hole
 "Such legislation will plug a big hole in our regulatory procedures," he said. "It would avoid the kind of situation we have found in this particular instance."

Legislative reform to stop such leaks "is long overdue," Jackson said. He said his bill will include penalties more severe than the present maximum of dismissal from government service for non-authorized release of information not involving national security.

Several persons made quick profits by buying Northeast Airline stock when they learned secretly before the public announcement—that the CAB had decided to award the highly profitable route to Northeast.

The subcommittee has not yet determined the source of the leak. But Jackson said he strongly suspects Raymond Sawyer, former executive director of the board. However, Sawyer categorically denied it when he testified before the subcommittee last week.

54 Stock Companies Are Suspended

Denver — (U.P.) — The regional Securities Exchange commission reported Saturday that its "stepped-up enforcement" program resulted in the suspension last year of 54 stock companies in seven states.

Regional Commissioner Milton J. Blake said Friday that most of the suspended firms handled uranium stocks, and that all companies suspended were handling stock issues of \$300,000 or less, and operating under the SEC's simplified Regulation A.

The Denver region, in which the suspended firms are located, is made up of Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska.

Blake said 15 stock dealers were placed under court injunction or had their licenses revoked.

State Department Defends Show Program

Washington — (U.P.) — The State Department Saturday formally defended its program of sending top-flight entertainers on junkets around the world to show foreign audiences American culture.

The department also declared that it must pay top salaries to the stars even if the wages seem "exorbitant" to Congress.

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seven anti-secrecy bills were defeated.

California took the lead in the introduction of measures which would protect the public's right to know. More than 70 bills dealing with secrecy were offered in that state's current legislative session. Most were designed to make all state agencies subject to the open meeting classification.

Open Meeting Laws
 Prior to this year's lawmaking sessions, nine states had so-called open meeting laws on their statute books. Twenty-two states had requirements for public inspection of official documents.

Developments so far this year included:

Gov. Orville Freeman of Minnesota signed two anti-secrecy measures. One provides that all state and local government agencies must conduct public meetings.

Grand Ronde Basin On Priority List

Salem — (U.P.) — The Grand Ronde basin of eastern Oregon has been placed on the priority list for study by the State Water Resources Board, Chairman L. C. Binford said here Saturday.

The purpose of the survey will be to determine the maximum beneficial use of the unappropriated waters in that area. Staff members will work in conjunction with the local committee and residents to determine the basic water needs of the basin for all beneficial uses.

This study will be the third undertaken by the board. The first, the Umpqua basin, is nearing completion. The study of the McKenzie is under way. Initial work on the Grand Ronde survey will be started this summer.

A public hearing will be scheduled to get the views of all interested persons and agencies as to future water requirements of the area.

The board's action was the result of an invitation from the Union County Water Resources committee to make investigations.

Deputy Indicted on Two Counts by Grand Jury

Portland — (U.P.) — Multnomah County Deputy Sheriff George Minelli was indicted on two counts of perjury late Friday as the last official acts of the vice probing grand jury which concluded nine weeks of investigations.

Minelli posted \$500 bail on each of the two counts when he was booked on appearance.

The indictments accuse Minelli of lying before District Judge John R. Mears on May 23, 1956, in connection with tape recordings seized in a raid on the home of Raymond Clark. The second count asserts that Minelli lied before the grand jury March 19, 1957.

ings and open their records to public inspection—with the exception of the Pardon and Parole Boards and the Youth Conservation Commission. The second requires local government sub-divisions to keep their meetings open and record all votes on any issue when the vote is not unanimous.

Kansas Bill
 Gov. George Docking of Kansas signed a bill requiring that all official records be open for public inspection. Exceptions are juvenile courts, adoption records and records of illegitimate births. Three other information measures were killed in committee. One provided for open meetings.

Legislation requiring all meetings of government or public agencies supported wholly or in part by public funds to be open to the public, unless otherwise specified by law, will become law in North Dakota on July 1.

A "right to know" law was approved in Vermont after it was amended to permit provisions of municipal charters to take precedence over state law.

It does not prohibit secret or executive sessions but it does prevent lawmakers from taking final action on most questions at closed door sessions. A key provision requires state and local agencies to keep minutes and make them available upon request, provided they do not involve security of the state, the reputation of a person or pending contracts.

Press Sponsored

Gov. Frank Clement signed into law an open records bill passed by the Tennessee legislature at its 1957 session. A companion bill for open meetings was dropped after opposition developed. The new open records law, sponsored by the Tennessee Press Association, exempts records of patients in state hospitals and records of the State Military Department, which might involve security.

Two bills designed to eliminate closed-door meetings failed to win the approval of the Arkansas Legislature. One, sponsored by the Arkansas Press Association, would have prohibited any closed meetings and provided a stiff penalty for persons conducting or attending such meetings.

Strained relations between the State Senate and the press over a bill to relax gambling control was blamed for the failure of a series of anti-secrecy measures to gain the approval of the Nevada Legislature. The gambling bill was vetoed by the governor.

The Indiana Senate defeated an anti-secrecy bill which would have allowed live or recorded broadcasts of public hearings held by public administrative bodies.

The Wisconsin Senate killed a measure providing that all Senate committee hearings would be open to the public.



BLIND YOUTH "SEES" PLANE—Michael Cozzolino, 19, who was blinded when struck by a baseball bat 14 years ago, "sees" a Navy F2H-3 Banshee jet with the descriptive help of Lt. (jg) Thad Harden. Two friends first attempted to help Cozzolino fulfill his desire to "see" a jet by slipping him past the fence of Alameda Naval Air Station at Alameda, Calif. A shot from a guard's shotgun pinked one of the youths and they were held for trespassing. Later Captain Frank Turner, commanding officer, gave Cozzolino a "day he'll never forget" after the youths apologized.

Eight Students Are Suspended at Linfield

McMinnville — (U.P.) — Linfield college officials Saturday announced the suspension of eight students recently implicated in a series of thefts both on campus and in the city of McMinnville.

Dr. J. A. Jonasson, dean of administration, announced in chapel, however, that the eight will be allowed to petition for readmittance to the college after July 1. He said the petitions will be considered on their merits.

'Scouting' System Proposed for Children

University Park, Pa.—(U.P.)—An Atomic Energy commission scientist proposed Saturday establishment of a "scouting" system to seek out exceptional children.

Dr. George G. Manov, AEC technical assistant, proposed that state educational systems and national education foundations, with whatever help needed from the federal government, set up centers in each state to identify "early in life and on a continuing basis those persons who are capable of profiting from advanced and accelerated training."

He estimated that the cost of such a program would be about five million dollars a year. Professional baseball and the entertainment field each spend more than that amount to find new talent, he said.

Manov said the centers would "have but one purpose—an exploration program to uncover the extent of our most precious natural resource."

Friendless Cat Sits On Robin's Nest

Cleveland, Ohio—(U.P.) — Mr. and Mrs. Peter Maffia three weeks ago found Brownie, a lone and friendless cat, and adopted her. Today, they're not so sure what sort of a creature Brownie is.

She sits for hours at a time on a robin's nest, apparently trying to hatch an egg in it.

There is grave doubt about Brownie's motives. Zoo Director Fletcher Reynolds holds that "a cat can't have any knowledge of the hatching process," and adds that "if I had a mammal out here behaving like Brownie, I'd expel her."

The zoo's bird curator, Harold

Red Skelton Reported 'Much Improved'

Santa Monica, Calif. — (U.P.) — Comedian Red Skelton Saturday was reported "much improved" at St. John's Hospital where he has been under treatment for a virus infection since Wednesday.

Doctors said Skelton would probably be permitted to go home Sunday and should be in shape for his television show Tuesday. Last Tuesday's live telecast was canceled because of his illness.

Lamm, looked on the darker side and opined, "She's probably waiting for the mother to show up—for sinister purposes."

Mrs. Maffia said the parent robins had been missing from the nest in the low evergreen in the yard. However, none of their inedible component parts, such as feathers were scattered nearby.

Suitcase Swiper In for Surprise in San Pedro

San Pedro, Calif. — (U.P.) — The guy who swiped J. N. Maris' suitcase from his parked station wagon is in for an awful jolt when he opens it.

Maris, a State Fish and Game Department snake expert, said the suitcase contained a three-foot long boa constrictor.

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