

Saxbe Considers Seeing Press Less Frequently

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Attorney General William B. Saxbe, criticized for his outspoken comments to newsmen, is considering a different and perhaps less frequent forum to meet the press.

John W. Hushen, the Justice Department's director of public information, said in response to questions yesterday that some department officials have urged Saxbe to discontinue his usual weekly meetings with reporters over coffee and doughnuts.

It has been at those sessions that Saxbe has delivered his most widely criticized statements, including the comment last week that he considers Patricia Hearst one of a group of "common criminals."

But Hushen said that incident did not necessarily prompt the search for another way of meeting reporters.

"We've had this thing under

a kind of steady re-evaluation since it began," Hushen said.

No press briefing has been scheduled so far this week.

Hushen assured reporters, however, that Saxbe "will continue to have meetings with the media."