

**U.S. Relationships**

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**Press Hearing Called**

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Senate Constitutional Rights subcommittee announced plans today for hearings on the relationship between the government and the press.

The hearings will begin Sept. 28 and continue over the next several weeks, Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., (D-N.C.), subcommittee chairman, said.

"The subcommittee's study and hearings are prompted in part by recent developments which have caused many Americans to question the vitality and significance

of the Constitution's free-press guarantee," he said.

"The increased subpoenaing of journalists by grand juries and congressional committees, efforts to secure injunctions against certain newspaper publications, the use of assumed press credentials for investigative 'covers' and new fears about government control and regulation of the broadcast media have brought into sharp relief existing concern about the relationship between government and the press," Ervin said.

"By focusing attention upon the history of the First

Amendment and its original rationale," he said, "we hope to develop new understanding of its present-day importance to free society."

Ervin said it sometimes appears that some government officials assume the role of the press is to present news about government policies and actions only in the best possible light.

And he said it sometimes appears that some members of the press unjustifiably interpret any official response to their criticism, other than acquiescence, as a threat to their freedom to criticize.