

# The Move to Control the Press



**Jack Anderson**

**T**HERE CAN no longer be any doubt that the government is determined to curtail the press. Not since John Peter Zenger was thrown into prison in 1735 for criticizing the British governor of New York have so many reporters been jailed in this country in the cause of press freedom.

At least six reporters have been locked up for refusing to disclose their news sources. The government, since it can't control what newsmen write, would like to control their access to the news.

Should the government be successful in this campaign to force newsmen to name their sources, the sources would quickly dry up. Only official sources would be left and the public would become dependent upon the government's sterile version of events.

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**T**HE LATEST victim is my own associate. Les Whitten, who was arrested in the act of covering a story. An FBI agent tore his notepad and pen out of his hands and handcuffed him, thereby preventing him from taking notes. He was mugged, fingerprinted and shut up behind bars while Justice Department officials debated for eight hours what charges to bring against him.

He was accused of receiving and possessing stolen documents. The authorities know, of course, that we had nothing whatsoever to do with stealing government documents. Nor have these documents ever been under our control.

We confess freely that we copied infor-

mation from stolen documents and reported this information to the people.

We believe the documents — and the information they contain — belong to the people. The documents disclose how the government has cheated, defrauded and neglected the Indians.

But the government is claiming, in effect, that it owns the news, that the facts in the Indian papers belong not to the people but to the government.

Of course, we believe that news belongs to the people and we will continue digging it out and reporting it to the people.

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**W**E RECENTLY revealed that the notorious hate peddler, Gerald L. K. Smith, had been given time on the Armed Forces radio network to promote his anti-Semitic, anti-Negro activities.

Now we have learned that the Nixon administration has permitted another racial rabble-rouser, Rudolph Steiner, to harangue the network's two million military and civilian listeners regularly.

Both bigots have appeared on a religious series, called "Suggested Solutions," which is a favorite of Armed Forces radio director John Broger, an evangelical fundamentalist.

Steiner has advocated some fascinating "solutions" in his broadcasts. He would try to resettle "at least one-half of the Negro population . . . in the countries that they came from," and deport repeat criminals to labor camps in the Pacific Islands.