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Sen. Ervin's**Plan for****Reporters****Washington**

The Senate's leading constitutional expert proposed yesterday immunity for reporters from testimony in federal proceedings when they have no direct personal knowledge of a crime.

Under the proposal of Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem-N.C.), a newsman would not be required to testify before a federal criminal court or a grand jury unless he had "actual personal knowledge which tends to prove or disprove the commission of a crime charged or being investigated."

Ervin made his proposal after he said that a bill giving newsmen absolute immunity from forced testimony has no chance of getting through Congress.

Reporters testifying before Ervin's constitutional rights subcommittee immediately opposed the plan. They said it would be worse than no protective legislation because newsmen could be

subpoenaed to testify before state proceedings.

Jack C. Landau of the Newhouse newspaper chain, representing the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, warned that a news source "certainly would be discouraged if he thought the reporter would be called before the state's grand jury."

Both Landau and Fred Graham of CBS said Ervin's proposal would not have covered several cases last year in which newsmen received information from sources who could have been subject to prosecution.

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