

## **Reporter**

# **Immunity Bill**

*By Peter Weisser*  
*Chronicle Correspondent*

### **Sacramento**

Governor Ronald Reagan yesterday signed into law a bill extending newsmen's immunity so reporters cannot be held in contempt for refusing to divulge information sources to county grand juries or coroner's juries.

The measure, by Assemblyman William T. Bagley (Rep - San Rafael) broadens the existing legal immunity which protects news gatherers from forced disclosure of sources by courts, the Legislature or administrative bodies.

Bagley said the legislation would prevent a repetition in California of the case of newsman Peter Bridge of New Jersey, who was cited by a grand jury.

In signing the bill which had strong media support, Reagan reaffirmed his belief in the First Amendment right of free speech, saying:

"The legislation I have signed today is in keeping with that amendment and strengthens the newsman's privilege. . . . The right to protect his source of infor-

*See Back Page*

### **From Page 1**

mation is fundamental to a newsman in meeting his full responsibilities to the public he serves."

Reagan announced the signing of five bills yesterday, along with 20 vetoes, with 57 bills expected to get final action today.

Thus far, governor's aid tabulated, Reagan signed into law 1430 bills with about 130 more

Amor  
yest