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**Stolen Documents**

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# A Reporter's Defense

## Washington

An investigative reporter accused of possessing stolen government documents told a federal grand jury yesterday the people had a right to know what the government was trying to conceal.

Les Whitten, investigative reporter for columnist Jack Anderson, was one of four witnesses who testified before the grand jury in a five-hour session yesterday. Also testifying were Ander-

son, and Indian leaders Hank Adams and Anita Collins.

Whitten and Adams were arrested two weeks ago as they allegedly carried documents taken from the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the occupation by militant Indians last year. They claimed they were taking the documents back to the BIA where they would turn them over to the FBI.

Whitten told the grand

jury he would be willing to take a lie detector test to prove he is innocent of the charge of possessing stolen documents. The grand jury is investigating the theft of the documents.

Whitten said after he emerged from the closed session that he was asked whether he felt a journalist should handle stolen documents and whether he felt the Constitution permitted such action.

*Associated Press*