

Data on Reporter Phone Calls Fought

Associated Press

A group of editors and reporters has demanded that American Telephone & Telegraph Co. stop its practice of disclosing records of reporters' telephone calls.

The demand came in a letter to AT & T Chairman John DeButts signed by representatives of 10 news gathering organizations and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

The letter, written by the committee's lawyer, threatened "appropriate legal action" if AT & T and its operating companies did not stop the practice of secretly divulging to law enforcement agencies records that could identify confidential news sources.

AT & T has told the Federal Communications Commission that it does not require a subpoena before making records of long-distance and some

local calls available to investigators, according to the letter.

Organizations represented by those who made the demands include the Boston Globe, Columbia Broadcasting System, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Knight Newspapers, New York Times, Publishers Hall, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Wall Street Journal and Washington Merry-Go-Round, Jack Anderson's syndicated column.