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**A Bill to Make
Lying a Crime**

Washington

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) said yesterday he will introduce legislation that would make it a crime for government officials to lie to the public.

Kennedy's proposal would make it a misdemeanor for any government official knowingly to make a false public statement "for the purpose of misleading Congress or the public on matters involving official policy or action of the United States."

The Massachusetts senator plans to introduce the measure as an amendment to the omnibus bill revising federal criminal laws which is now before the Senate Judiciary Committee. His bill would also make it a crime

for government officials to intimidate federal employees from speaking out against official deceit and corruption. Violators would face a maximum penalty of a year in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Supporters of the proposal pointed out that is already a felony, punishable by five years in prison, for members of the public to make false statements to government investigators, even when not under oath.

"There ought to be some parity here," said Jeremy J. Stone, director of the Federation of American Scientists. "The government shouldn't be able to make false statements to citizens either."

Washington Post