

April 12, 1973

(Begin Belt #16)

I wanted to ask Senator Savage a question if he would yield? Would you expand a little more, if you would, as to exactly what changes is he proposing from what--you indicated it was not much but I'm wondering if it's not much...

SENATOR SAVAGE: There's only three changes, three minor changes--two minor changes and one what you might call a major change that would define, more closely define what a newsman is and more closely defines what a news media is so that it doesn't include underground papers or pornographic literature and things like that. Now the only other amendment to the bill was that it requires a news reporter if he witnesses a violent crime such as murder, rape, any crime that would be punishable by death or life imprisonment, that this reporter would have to testify to what he saw. Now the original intent of this bill is not to protect the reporter himself or the newsman or even the publication. The original intent of this bill is to protect the source. In other words, if you come to me and tell me that there's something wrong in one of the departments of government and I investigate and find it to be true, I don't have to reveal who told me so that you would either lose your job or in the case of criminal investigation you might even lose your life. So the only change is that if you see something, if you actually see something happen like out at Wounded Knee the other day, if a reporter saw somebody shoot the U.S. Marshall, he would be required to testify which he would anyway but the Governor asked me if I would put it in the bill, said he wouldn't sign it unless I did so I acquiesce to his request. Does that answer your question, Senator Warner?

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion? This is the motion to suspend the rules. Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, I've been talking here but as I understand it you want to put this on General File without a hearing?

SENATOR SAVAGE: It had a pretty good public hearing and these are only two changes that we're adding to it, it more closely defines what a news...

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, then it wouldn't take very long to have an additional public hearing on those matters, would it?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Well, I was just trying to expedite this thing so that I could keep my word with the Governor, that's all I'm trying to do.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, Senator Savage, it's just my opinion that we would have plenty of time to have a public hearing and get it back out here for action. That's just my opinion.

SPEAKER: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: We don't--Senator Syas--I just came back in, we don't have a copy of, you don't have a copy of the thing? What does it say?

SENATOR SAVAGE: No, it was spelled out in the paper just exactly what I told you that, or if you weren't in the room that it more closely defines what a news media is, what the news paper is. It eliminates pornographic material and it eliminates underground newspapers which I didn't intend to have in there in the first place, it more closely defines what a reporter is and the only other big change is that if a reporter or a newsman actually has, is a visual witness to