

Mr. HANES. We want to thank the subcommittee.

Mr. BENJAMIN. We want to thank the subcommittee for giving us this opportunity to take part.

Mr. MOSS. Our next witness is Mr. John Colburn, editor and publisher of the Wichita, Kans., Eagle and Beacon, representing the American Newspaper Publishers Association. Mr. Colburn is an old friend of the subcommittee who has been most helpful from the very beginning sessions back in 1956, I believe.

Mr. Colburn, do you have a statement?

**STATEMENT OF JOHN H. COLBURN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,
WICHITA (KANS.) EAGLE AND BEACON, REPRESENTING THE
AMERICAN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION**

Mr. COLBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My name is John H. Colburn. I am editor and publisher of the Wichita (Kans.) Eagle and Beacon. Today I represent the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA), an organization of more than 920 daily newspaper members with 90 percent of the total daily newspaper circulation in the United States.

ANPA advocates favorable action on House bill H.R. 5012. This measure to require Government agencies to make "records promptly available to any person" is of vital public interest.

Certainly, we were delighted to see the testimony of the distinguished gentleman from the American Bar Association, and I think constructive suggestions for improving this legislation even further.

Most of my 35 years as a reporter, foreign correspondent, and editor have been dedicated to keeping the public informed as to how Government affairs are conducted. Since World War II especially, I have been more and more concerned by efforts of Government agencies to deprive the people of legitimate information, which they need to properly exercise their role as responsible citizens.

Before I became a member of the ANPA Federal Laws Committee, I had the privilege of serving as chairman of the Freedom of Information Committees of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Associated Press Managing Editors Association. I am personally aware, as the chairman noted, of the excellent work done by Congressman Moss, his subcommittee and staff of experts, which has certainly been an excellent service in exposing example after example of unjustified Government secrecy in the conduct of the people's affairs.

Senate passage last year of S. 1666, the "Right to know" bill, reflected a growing conviction among Members of the Congress that such legislation is necessary. It also reflected a determination to recognize the concern among informed people that Government secrecy has exceeded proper bounds.

It is gratifying to our ANPA membership to note the strong bipartisan support already accorded the legislation you are considering today.

In our view, the amendments needed to implement an effective Federal public records law are badly needed. They are long overdue. This is amply demonstrated by the sorry record of experience with the secrecy loopholes in section 3 of the Administrative Procedure Act since 1946.