

That is my statement on behalf of United Press International.

Now, on behalf of Sigma Delta Chi, let me say first that Sigma Delta Chi, despite its partially Greek name, is not a fraternal or a social organization; it is a professional society of 17,000 active members. We are engaged not only in the newspaper business but in all forms of communications—broadcasting, magazines, and so on.

Sigma Delta Chi has been, I think, the leader for many years in campaigning in the States for enactment of open records and open meeting laws.

As I believe Mr. Black noted, there are now 37 States that have at least relatively satisfactory open records laws and 29 States that have open meetings laws, and we are very hopeful that the legislative season in the States this year will bring at least 2 or 3 or more of those along.

So, with our longstanding interest in this, we are, naturally, greatly pleased that this committee is now working on getting an appropriate Federal law. I would like, also, to express at this time our great admiration and thanks for the work of the chairman of this committee and the other members and your staff, Mr. Chairman, for the great help that you've been to all of us over these several years now, in the work that you've done.

Now, as you mentioned, I have with me the distinguished Washington correspondent, of the Cowles publications, Mr. Clark Mollenhoff, who has been active in this field for many years, and he is prepared to discuss a statement which has been filed with you on behalf of the national president of Sigma Delta Chi, Mr. Ralph Sewell, who could not be here.

This statement was prepared by Mr. Sewell in collaboration with Mr. Mollenhoff.

Mr. Moss. Well, I am very pleased to recognize Mr. Mollenhoff. It's been my privilege to work very closely with him as chairman of this committee during the past 10 years, and I recognize that in undertaking the role of the spokesman here, he is qualified not only as a journalist, but also as a member of the bar, and it is always a pleasure to welcome him to the committee.

Mr. MOLLENHOFF. Mr. Chairman, it's good to be here. Sometimes one wonders how much progress we have made in the past years in these areas, but I guess we make a little progress from time to time.

This statement is for the Sigma Delta Chi, and it is not my personal statement, which would probably embrace a few other things. We are in favor of the legislation introduced by the chairman, and the legislation introduced by Senator Long. It clarifies the right of the public to information, and when it stays within that framework, we are for it.

We urge passage of this bill, even though at the same time we urge that the committee take a closer look at some of the language covering exceptions.

We are particularly pleased with those sections of the legislation that are designed to make it possible for the citizen or representative of news media to go into the Federal court to force the production of information that is not covered by one of the eight exempted areas.

This has been something that has come up in the courts a good many times in the past few years, and there are a number of examples where persons in Government or people dealing with the Government have been unable to obtain information simply because there was no mecha-