

## Freedom Of Information Bill For Newsmen

MEMORANDUM filed with Assembly Bill Number 5478-B, entitled "AN ACT" to amend the civil rights law, in relation to contempt. No. 86 (Chapter 615) — Approved.

This "Freedom of Information Bill for Newsmen" will make New York State — the Nation's principal center of news gathering and dissemination — the only state that clearly protects the public's right to know and the First Amendment rights of all legitimate newspapermen, reporters and television and radio broadcasters.

The bill protects journalists and newscasters from charges of contempt in any proceeding brought under State law for refusing or failing to disclose information or sources of information obtained in the course of gathering news for publication.

The types of information that need not be disclosed by newsmen are written, oral and pictorial information and communications concerning local, national or worldwide events or any other matter of public concern or public interest or affecting the public welfare.

Freedom of the press is one of the foundations upon which our form of government is based. A representative democracy, such as ours, cannot exist unless there is a free press both willing and able to keep the public informed of all the news.

The threat to a newsman is being charged with contempt and of being imprisoned for failing to disclose his information or its sources can significantly reduce his ability to gather vital information. That this is a real and imminent threat has been demonstrated by the statements of several prominent reporters that valuable sources of information have been cut off because of recent attempts by the Federal Government to require the disclosure of information obtained by reporters in confidence.

A Federal District Court Judge in California has recently recognized as a matter of constitutional law, that the testimonial compulsion of newsmen may seriously impinge upon or repress the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech, press and association, which centuries of experience have found to be indispensable to the survival of a free society. Accordingly, he prohibited the Federal Government from requiring the disclosure of "confidential associations that impinge upon the effective exercise of — (reporters') First Amendment right to gather news for dissemination to the public through the press or other recognized media until such time

### Frank G. Cook

Frank G. Cook, died November 22, 1969 at Oyster Bay, N. Y. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Adrienne Cook of 200 Lexington Ave., Oyster Bay, N. Y.; three sons and two daughters.

Mr. Cook attended Alfred University and was a frequent visitor in Andover and spent his summers at the home of his uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Cook.

### Surprise Party Held

Members of the Sophomore Class and Advisor Glenn Bromson held a surprise party Friday evening for Alan Folsom, at his home on Center Street.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Folsom and members of the class. Alan was presented a gift by his classmates.

### Baker Reunion

The Baker Reunion will be held Sunday, July 5, 1970 at the Grange Hall on E. Greenwood Street, Andover, N. Y.

Please bring sandwiches, a dish to pass and table service.

People with children bring own beverage. Coffee will be furnished.

### Appreciation

I wish to thank my friends and neighbors for the many cards, gifts and visitations. I would also like to thank Dr. Akman, the nurses and nurses aides for the wonderful care I received and Rev. Wolter for his visits while I was in the hospital.

Martha Wittie

as a compelling and overriding national interest which cannot be alternatively served has been established to the satisfaction of the court." Application of Caldwell (N. D., Cal. Misc. No. 10426, 1970).

At the present time, fifteen other states have enacted legislation extending testimonial privilege to newsmen. This measure affords a stronger safeguard of the free channels of news communication than most existing legislation, by protecting newsmen from being compelled to disclose the information they gather, as well as the identity of their informants. The need to protect both information and sources was affirmed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1963 when it held that the compulsory disclosure of newsmen's informants had been deleted, would information, even if the names of the realistically nullify the object and intent of the Pennsylvania statute permitting reporters to refuse to disclose the identity of their sources. In re Taylor, 412 Pa. 32 (1963).

The Bill is approved.

(Signed)

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

### Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Allen To Be Feted On 50th Wedding Anniversary

The family of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Allen will honor them at a "Open House", Sunday, June 21, 1970 from 2 to 4 p. m. at the Masonic Temple, Church St., Andover.

### Last Surviving Engineer of Shawmut Railroad Dies

Layton E. Rowe, 79, of Angelica, the last surviving engineer of the Old Pittsburgh, Shawmut and Northern Railroad, died Tuesday, June 16th at the Cuba Memorial Hospital in Cuba.

Mr. Rowe is survived by his widow, a son and a sister.

### Appreciation

I wish to thank my friends for the lovely cards, flowers and visitations I received while a patient in the Jones Memorial Hospital. I also wish to thank everyone who has sent in food and did errands for me since my return home. Your kindness will long be remembered.

Pearl Coats

### Commercial Printing

at the

### News Printing House

### A moment to be remembered



A funeral service conducted with beauty, dignity and deep reverence will long be dearly cherished in memory

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### Slim Pickins' Tops Club

The regular weekly meetings of the Slim Pickins Top Club were held in the Andover Central School during May. The Queens were:

May 6 — Carolyn Emery  
May 13 — Carolyn Emery  
May 20 — Charlotte Gavin  
May 27 — Jeanette Horan

The Queen for May was Carolyn Emery.

In our most recent contest Lyla Stephens won a bouquet of artificial flowers donated by TOPS members.

A game has been started to encourage more weight loss.

On May 8 and 9 Ruby Ormsby and Sue Granic attended State Recognition Day at Buffalo. Ruby

represented our Club as the 1969 Queen at the Royalty Parade held in the Statler Hilton Hotel.

### Too Late To Classify

WATER LINES — Installed from Curb Box to House. Dial Andover 478-5682. 26

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AND

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