

JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS

JUDICIARY

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TUESDAY

JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS

APRIL 15, 1969

H. B. No. 8476 (Rep. Allen, 47th)

AN ACT CONCERNING DEFINITION OF
"SUBSTANTIAL CIRCULATION" IN THE
PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES

Rep. Carrozzella: We will call the meeting to order in a few moments. I would point out to the public that we call from the speaker's list which is located in the bank of the room. If you intend to speak you should register in the back of the room as to which bill you intend to speak on, what organization you're going to speak for, if any, and we'll call your names from that list and that list only. The hearing is scheduled from ten to ten-thirty for legislators and I'll recognize you Representative. You can speak now.

Rep. Clarke: I'm Hilda Clarke, 158th District, Stamford. Mr. Chairman, I wish to support H.B. 6760 which amends section 121 (a) of the General Statutes relating to the broadcasting of meetings. Also I support H.B. 7281 meetings of governmental agencies and H.B. 7285, refusal of access and H.B. 7999 which is an amendment of section 17-47A to request the Welfare Department to disclose its records to federal, state or local government agencies on request of authorized personnel and S.B. 1236, the right-to-know law. These are bills that have been requested in my area by people who are knowledgeable and feel that these are--especially the right-to-know law is something that will benefit all the community. Thank you very much.

Rep. Carrozzella: Thank you, Representative. Senator Stanley?

Sen. Stanley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Senator William B. Stanley of the 19th District and I would speak in favor of a bill I have before you S.B. 1486 which deals with an act concerning the identification of editorial writers. I'm not at all sure that no matter how I phrase it, it would be understood by the press but I think as a politician this is one of the risks you have to take. And I think really it relates only to the public right-to-know that if nice things are said about any of us whether we be in public life or in elected office, that the public has a right to know who is saying those things. In the other words, on the editorial pages of a newspaper, if you write a letter to the editor, they will not print it if you don't sign it and I think that the editorials to the public throughout the state, both on radio and in newspapers and on television would have all the more meaning if those who were the authors had the courage of their convictions and were willing to put their name on them. I think very often when you write an editorial and you have the power of the press behind you, you're shielded and I've often thought in speaking in the Senate on a controversial issue how comfortable indeed it would be if I were not identified with a certain issue, if I could speak and say I was representing the Democratic Party but when you do stand up, you are identified and when they call for a roll-call vote, they know how you voted. This is our obligation.