

but we see a constant misuse of power and we feel the public through this Ethics Law may get better reporting and find who is violating this trust that is given to the press through the First Amendment. Doctors, real estate people and most professionals are licensed and held accountable.

The First Amendment to our Constitution says "Freedom of the Press." However, with this power comes responsibility since this amendment was designed to help protect the public from those who could exploit them.

When our forefathers over 200 years ago designed our Constitution, the press was small, personal and effective. The editors and writers and publishers were well-known, respected members of the community. Today with the monopolized giant news media we have found the press has become a questionable source of news in too many instances; they don't write the actual news, they make it. Therefore, there has become a terrible and scary credibility gap which threatens the nation.

The accountability bill

Amending the act of October 4, 1978 (P.L.883, No. 170), entitled "An act relating to conflicts of interest involving certain public officials serving in State or State agencies and local political subdivision positions and prohibiting certain public employees from engaging in certain conflict of interest activities requiring certain disclosures and providing penalties," requiring employees of the news media who are regularly and ordinarily assigned to news coverage of the General Assembly to file financial statements:

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 4, act of October 4, 1978 (P.L.883, No. 170), referred to as the Public Official and Employee Ethics Law, is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 4. Statement of financial interests required to be filed. (q) Every employee of the news media regularly or ordinarily assigned to news coverage of the General Assembly shall file with the commission, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives a statement of financial interests for the preceding calendar year no later than May 1 of each year.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

Rep. Zeller: there is a need

Here, Representative Zeller explains his legislation and discusses the problem of coordinated political manipulation by the media.

EIR: *I understand why you have oriented the actual ethics legislation narrowly toward reporters in Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania state capital, only. I would like to ask you some questions about the broader issues concerned with how the press creates rather than reports the news.*

For example, I know that you were involved in helping to bring about investigations into exactly what happened in the Three Mile Island nuclear plant incident. That was an excellent example of the press creating a false picture of the situation and misinforming the public.

Zeller: That is true. What has happened is that the press does not write the news, they make it. For example, from the "Burn, Baby, Burn" period of the 60s, a lot of the journalists who graduated from various colleges were involved in these campus strikes, are now editors, writers, at newspapers throughout the country and they have very liberal views. They are "shakers and makers" with regard to changes in the government, and so they've gotten away from the first amendment, which means the right and freedom of the press, and peoples' right to know. They have abused that to the point that the people no longer have a right to know. They are supposed to, but the press doesn't think so. The press thinks: 'we will guide them mentally the way we want to by the hogwash that we give out to them. We will guide public opinion in the direction we want.'

That's what happened with the various terrorist groups around the world and in this country. It's happening all over and the press is part and parcel of this whole operation, because it is infiltrated by those types of individuals. So I see the picture where they have eaten away at the first amendment, freedom of the press, and the right to know of the public.

EIR: *What groups and individuals, interest groups, forces, and so forth do you think are responsible for this?*

Zeller: The fact is that these people are tied into what I call the "international operation" of a group of people who absolutely feel that there should be no growth in this country.... They're socialized into a socialistic form of government, and "Big Daddy" is going to do everything for them. They don't realize that the very system that made them, that brought them to this point in time...is the capitalistic form of government...which has made it possible for these people to yak, to voice their opinions, to go to college, and so forth. They

for control of press power

don't understand this is the bottom of the pork barrel, and the only way we're going to get the country back on an even keel is by the whistles in the factories blowing, by the guy going there with his lunch pail and working and getting his paycheck, coming home and being able to buy food and fibers for his family, being able to drive a car and buy a home and educate his children—that's the cycle. But these people don't see that....

EIR: *I know—and we've published reports on this—that in terms of this ideology you're talking about, it's coming from specific groups and individuals. For example, the Council on Foreign Relations. Ninety-nine percent of the board of directors and editors of the New York Times, the executives of that publication, are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. And also many of them are members of various British "think tanks," like the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, of which the Council on Foreign Relations in New York is the U.S. subsidiary.*

Zeller: There's no question in my mind about this.

EIR: *The other mechanism, in a sense more subversive, is the Fund for Investigative Journalism, set up and funded by the Institute for Policy Studies, which specializes in what we call "political watergating," that is, in fabricating so-called investigations.*

Zeller: They do this all the time.

EIR: *These things work because the people who read these newspapers don't know who's running the "puppet show" behind the scenes, who's pulling the strings. How can we make that known?*

Zeller: It's very difficult. For example, the 1973 case in Alabama (an ethics bill broadly aimed at all aspects of the news media, which was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court on first amendment grounds—ed). It's very difficult for my bill to go through if I widen it to apply to all reporters, and all editors, and all publishers. And I'll tell you why I directed my bill only to the state capitol and any reporter that works in the state capitol. ...The Alabama law in 1973: as I was saying...it did get passed, but it was challenged by the Supreme Court and thrown out.

The Alabama General Assembly passed it in 1973, and that would deal with all reporters. But what happened was the court challenged it under the first amendment...because it got into people that didn't deal with

public life. Therefore, the court said it was too far-reaching and would violate the first amendment....

Now the only area we're going to start with, as a foot in the door, is people—like some politicians in Harrisburg I of pay to do that. That is most needed because the trouble is you have this unregulated press monopoly...they own senators, they own congressmen, they own presidents, they own big companies.

Here in Allentown (Pa.) the newspaper here, the *Morning Call*, owns most of the downtown area, they own most of the big department stores, the houses, the properties...You have Phil Berman (business partner to the owner of the Allentown *Call* newspaper—ed.) in town, who owns Hess' Department Store, and he's very, very active with the Zionists. He is one of their big fundraisers in town. Both of them (Berman and the owner of the Allentown newspaper—ed.) are half-owners of a new hotel they're going to put up in Allentown, and they're tied in together. I exposed the fact that they got a \$3 million grant to put in a recreation program in that section, and they're going to use the building for it as part of the lobby for the hotel. I ran with the expose. So when I shake them up like that you know I "gotta go." I'm targetted. They've got their political gun-for-hire writer out for me....

EIR: *This sounds like somewhat of an anomaly since in many small towns around the country, you find a fairly honest and independent press. What has happened is that the British are trying to buy out the media throughout the U.S. Morgan Guaranty bank is advising their British clientel to buy up small U.S. newspapers, less than 100,000 circulation, and that the profitability is not in profits per se, but in the readership, the political influence. Of course the London Economist has been advising from some time now for the British to buy up America cheap. ...*

Zeller: Yes, they're trying to get the United States back.

EIR: *They're still trying to get control over the press that are not under the thumb of the Eastern Establishment media, putting out the line to go for the small newspapers in non-metropolitan areas.*

Zeller: They've got to get out in the boondocks. They're going to start buying up small papers out in the boondocks because that's where most of your responsible people are now. ... They've destroyed the big cities and got most of the people in the big cities brainwashed; now they're going to head for the boondocks and destroy the responsible people out there. ...