

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 192

Affirming that the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees the freedom of the press and asserting that no purpose is served by sentencing journalists Judith Miller and Matthew Cooper, nor any similarly situated journalists, to prison for maintaining the anonymity of confidential sources.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11, 2005

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Affirming that the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees the freedom of the press and asserting that no purpose is served by sentencing journalists Judith Miller and Matthew Cooper, nor any similarly situated journalists, to prison for maintaining the anonymity of confidential sources.

Whereas the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees the freedom of the press;

Whereas it is essential to the democracy of the United States that journalists may report important information to the public without fear of intimidation or imprisonment;

Whereas a majority of the States and the District of Columbia have enacted media shield laws to protect the right

of journalists to maintain the anonymity of confidential sources;

Whereas Robert Novak, the columnist first to publish the identity of a covert Central Intelligence Agency officer by name, stated that the Government should not imprison journalists for maintaining the anonymity of confidential sources;

Whereas a United States district court judge may soon sentence Matthew Cooper, the White House correspondent for Time Magazine, and Judith Miller, a journalist for the New York Times, to prison for contempt for refusing to disclose confidential sources;

Whereas that United States district court judge will hold a hearing to consider arguments against imprisonment of those journalists; and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the United States Senate to make its views known in areas of national and legal importance: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) affirms that the First Amendment of the
3 Constitution of the United States guarantees the
4 freedom of the press; and

5 (2) proclaims that no purpose is served by im-
6 prisoning journalists Judith Miller and Matthew
7 Cooper.

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