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# U.S. Won't Censor Press, McGrath Pledges

By The Associated Press

Two Cabinet members last night declared against any form of compulsory censorship for American newspapers in the present emergency.

Attorney General McGrath said that however much the Administration may abhor some publications, it will never attempt to curb their freedom of expression.

Secretary of Commerce Sawyer suggested a voluntary security code among publishers to prevent vital defense information from reaching potential enemies.

McGrath spoke at Boston before the Boston Press Club. Sawyer, a former publisher, addressed the Ohio Newspaper Association at Columbus.

The Attorney General declared: "Experience from the days of Gutenberg has shown there is no such thing as a good and sound press if it is coerced in its freedom of opinion and its right to print the news."

"Newspapers enjoying unlimited freedom from Government interference will be able to report the news more accurately and dis-

honesty beyond all understanding, but no newspaper is as dangerous to a society, as basically venal and pusillanimous as a newspaper subject to Government censorship and control.

"The most abominable newspaper where freedom of the press prevails is an enormous improvement over the best Government-controlled newspaper in the total state. Better a free press with margins of error broad as an eight-column banner headline, than a press that in any degree is directed, harassed, influenced, constricted or inspired by any source

other than its reporters, editors and publishers, who in turn get their cue from the people."

Under this Administration," McGrath said, "there will be no implied, no disguised, no direct and no indirect censorship of the American newspaper."

"I think it can fairly be said that the American newspaper has lived up to its responsibilities by constantly improving standards, and by integrity at least on a level with and sometimes superior to other fields of endeavor—such as, shall we say, the law and politics."

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