

2-1973

## Correspondence Between Roger J. Traynor and George Duscheck Regarding the National News Council, 1973 February 26 - 1973 February 27

Roger J. Traynor

*The National News Council, Inc.*

George Duscheck

*Newsroom, KQED-TV*

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February 27, 1973

Mr. George Dusheck  
Newsroom, KQED-TV  
525 Fourth Street  
San Francisco, California 94107

Dear Mr. Dusheck:

I very much appreciate having the observations in your letter of 26 February about the National News Council and should like to discuss them informally with you some day soon when it is convenient for both of us.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Traynor

# NEWSROOM

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864-2000

KQED-TV CHANNEL 9, 525 FOURTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO 94107, 415/~~301-1020~~

Feb. 26, 1973

Roger J. Traynor  
Hastings College of the Law  
San Francisco, California

Dear Justice Traynor:

I was among the reporters who sat through those two interesting days of discussion at Santa Barbara earlier this month on broadcast journalism and the First Amendment.

However, I was disappointed by the brief and ( I thought) desultory discussion of the embryonic press council funded by the 20th Century Fund and headed by you. Only a few of those present seemed to sense the potential value of the Council as a means of defusing governmental criticism while raising the standards of reporting and editing.

Nevertheless, my own interest was aroused. I wonder how you intend to go about your task. Will you have a staff? And who will join it?

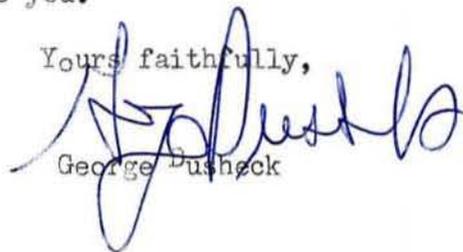
Surely the experience of jurists is necessary, for weighing the various kinds of evidence presented to you.

But it seems to me the experience of journalists is also important. More errors arise from the structure and time pressures of news-gathering than from malice. Every day reporters must deal with subjects on which they are inadequately informed. The best reporter has only a modest chance of getting everything right under the pressure of his deadline.

What I'm trying to say, I guess, is that the perspective of insiders, while never decisive, is helpful in separating malice from incompetence. In addition, persons who have worked in the news media are likely to be more skilled in communicating with their fellows: We know who to call and what to ask them.

All of this may have been already built into the press council project. But as a reporter with long experience in the print medium and several years in television, I wonder if I or someone like me wouldn't be useful to you.

Yours faithfully,



George Dusheck