

4-6-1973

Letter to Henry J. Friendly To Serve As the Public Member for the National News Council

Murray J. Rossant

The Twentieth Century Fund

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Recommended Citation

Murray J. Rossant, *Letter to Henry J. Friendly To Serve As the Public Member for the National News Council* (1973).

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The Twentieth Century Fund

41 East 70th Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

(212) 535-4441

April 6, 1973

C
Justice Henry J. Friendly
1088 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10028

Dear Judge Friendly:

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P
At the suggestion of a number of people, including Roger Traynor, I am writing to determine whether you could be persuaded to serve as a public member of the National News Council. The founding committee for the Council, which includes representatives of foundations and an independent Twentieth Century Fund Task Force, is unanimous in its desire that you take on this assignment. Committee members see no possible conflict in your joining the National Council while continuing to serve on the bench.

I am enclosing some material on the Council, including the original report by the Task Force, the Council's articles of incorporation and rules of procedure, plus press comment both pro and con.

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It is too early to say much about the workload of council members, but we assume it will involve about a day a month. The Council's headquarters will be here in New York. A permanent staff will be responsible for carrying out investigations and conducting research studies.

Since we are in the last stages of the Council's formation -- we expect to announce its fifteen members this month -- I hope you will be able to give this matter your earliest possible attention. Judge Traynor and I would both be happy to discuss the Council and your participation on it. I have no doubt that your participation would greatly ease the Council's task in winning over doubters and establishing itself as a valuable as well as innovative organization.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

M. J. Rossant

MJR/hrb

Enclosure
cc: Justice Roger Traynor ✓