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Letter to Roger J. Traynor Regarding the National News Council's Organization

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The Bulletin

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THE BULLETIN

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ROBERT W. CHANDLER
EDITOR

January 30, 1973

Justice Roger J. Traynor
2643 Piedmont
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Roger:

This is the first of two letters I am writing to you today. No copies of it are going to anyone.

I am somewhat disturbed over the course the organization of the National News Council is taking. While the Twentieth Century Fund has been generous, I do not think the Council can afford to let itself become a subsidiary of the Twentieth Century Fund. Murray mentioned the other day, for example, that the Twentieth Century Fund was looking for new quarters and could arrange to get something large enough so the Council could share those quarters. I think that would be a mistake.

With the Fund furnishing all the staff work to date, it is in effect, maintaining a veto over all staff and membership suggestions. I think that is causing us to flounder.

We talk about the need to get more representation from blacks, from women, and from television. Then, someone suggests a young black woman television reporter who is not working for one of the networks and the suggestion is vetoed because no one on the founding group ever heard of her.

The same thing is true of newspaper people. When we eliminate everyone who works for the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the AP, the UPI, we have eliminated most of the nationally-known people in this business.

I am going on my vacation next week and will be gone for about three weeks. That means I will be out of touch until about February 26.

At any rate, the time may have come for you to hire, and the Council to pay, some secretarial help and for you to take over the direction of the founding staffing of the Council until permanent offices are established.

Best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RWC', written in a cursive style.

RWC:gm