

12-13-1973

Letter to Roger Traynor Regarding His Resignation as the Chairman of the National News Council

Murray J. Rossant

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Recommended Citation

Murray J. Rossant, *Letter to Roger Traynor Regarding His Resignation as the Chairman of 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

M. J. Rossant, *Director*

December 13, 1973

Justice Roger Traynor
Hotel Dorset
30 West 54th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Roger:

After talking to Bill Arthur and pondering over your resignation from the National News Council, I think it would be wise to keep things confidential for a while in order to avoid erroneous interpretations of your decision by the Council's critics.

It seems to me that an announcement should be delayed if possible until the Council has made a notable decision or two and your successor has been found. (I also hope that you will continue an association as an advisor to the Council.) Otherwise, I fear that it will appear to some uncharitable souls that you have left a still not shipshape vessel.

Would it be possible for you to get in touch with Cambridge and see if they could hold up an announcement for a few months at least? And could you sound out Judges Fuld and Reardon and Schaefer? If one of them would assent to step into your shoes, I am sure your colleagues on the Council could not only go along but have some assurance that the high level of leadership that you provided could be maintained.

Needless to say, I feel honored that you have served and will continue to serve over the most difficult period in the Council's history. I consider it a privilege to have known and worked with you, and all I am seeking now is to assure that the Council, which owes so much to your guidance, should not appear leaderless when you step out.

I enclose the Civil Liberties Review with the piece by Tony Lewis on the Council that I mentioned yesterday. He is a good friend to have.

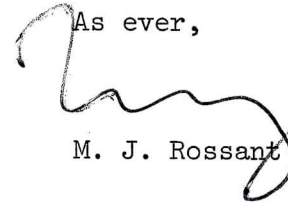
As I said yesterday, I hope that your departure will not mean a rupture of our relations. Indeed, I look forward to seeing Madeleine and you

Justice Roger Traynor
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very soon.

Meanwhile, my warmest greetings and hopes for you and yours in this season and the new year.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Rossant', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

M. J. Rossant

MJR/gbk

Enclosure