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## Letter to Roger J. Traynor Pertaining to the Article, "The Press Shields Itself"

Irving Dilliard

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November 18, 1973

Dear Roger and Fellow N.N.C. members:

This matter of the need for much greater public access to the news media did not come up overnight or even within the last half dozen years. Attached is a leading editorial I wrote for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, April 21, 1953, entitled "The Press Shields Itself".

I came onto it again shortly before our November 12 meeting and so have asked Bill Arthur please to photocopy it and distribute it to you. For this editorial shows what the problem was like in one aspect more than twenty years ago.

I might add that, so far as I know, this editorial was not reprinted anywhere in the newspapers of the day or commented on in the professional press journals. The idea that a free press should study and evaluate its own performance has been anything but a popular one down through the years!

Irving Dilliard

Transcribed from a handwritten note