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The National News Council Meeting

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NATIONAL NEWS COUNCIL, INC.

Council Meeting

The meeting of the Council of the National News Council, Inc., (the "Corporation") was held at 2:00 p.m. on May 10, 1974, in the conference room of Children's Television Workshop at One Lincoln Plaza, New York City.

The following members of the Council were present:

Stanley H. Fuld, Chairman
Joan Ganz Cooney
Irving Dilliard
Loren F. Ghiglione
Molly Ivins
Robert B. McKay
Sylvia Roberts
William A. Rusher
R. Peter Straus

Also present were the following advisers to the Council:

Roger J. Traynor
Herbert Wechsler

Invited guests:

Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., Columbia University
Thomas C. Lee, Professor of Journalism,
National Chengchi University,
Taipei, Taiwan
Jack Howard, Twentieth Century Fund

Staff members present:

William B. Arthur
Ned Schnurman
Cheryl Bostwick
Mary Sue Johnson

Also attending were members of the press and a student.

The Chairman, Judge Stanley H. Fuld, called the meeting to order.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Thomas C. Lee to the Council and expressed the Council's honor at having him present.

The Chairman then noted the selection of Roger J. Traynor as the University of California alumnus of the year.

The Chairman then read an award from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, citing the National News Council as the recipient of its National Journalism Award. The Chairman ordered that a copy of the award be filed with the minutes of this meeting.

The minutes of the March 25, 1974, Council meeting were presented to the Council and approved without debate.

The Treasurer's report was read and adopted.

The Chairman read a letter of resignation as a Council member from Thomas B. Curtis. Irving Dilliard offered the following resolutions, which were duly seconded and passed:

RESOLVED, that the resignation of Thomas B. Curtis as a member of the National News Council, effective as of May 1, 1974, be, and it hereby is, accepted; and further,

RESOLVED, that the National News Council accepts Mr. Curtis's resignation with regret and with appreciation for his loyal and effective service to the Council since its inception.

The Chairman ordered that Mr. Curtis's letter of resignation be filed with the minutes of this

meeting.

The Chairman directed Dean Robert B. McKay and his Nominating Committee to begin consideration of a successor public member to the Council.

The Freedom of the Press Committee then reported on its meetings of May 9 and 10. Irving Dilliard, representing the Committee, read the Committee's resolution to consider the complaint brought by the National Conference of Editorial Writers against columnist Victor Lasky and the North American Newspaper Alliance. William Arthur reviewed the background of the complaint for those members of the Council not familiar with it.

Roger Traynor, also representing the Committee, reported on efforts that morning to receive information on a gag order imposed by a California court in the "Zebra" case. A call had been placed to the California judge to determine if the order had been stayed or if a petition had been made to stay it. As of the Council meeting, the judge had not returned the call.

The Committee also expressed its approbation for Professor Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., and his access study. The Committee reported that the study would be released after the Supreme Court decision on the Miami Herald v. Tornillo case.

The Grievance Committee then reported on its meetings of May 9 and 10. Dean McKay summarized for

the Council the Committee's public hearing of May 9 on the complaint of Horace P. Rowley v. Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Black Journal. Ned Schnurman informed the Council that the Committee's finding in this complaint would, after a ten-day waiting period, be mailed to all Council members and a vote by mail or phone would be taken so that a public statement could be made before the June Council meeting.

Mr. Schnurman then read statements on decisions made by the Grievance Committee at its May 9 meeting. (Copies of such statements are on file).

A statement was read dismissing the complaint of T. G. Cote against columnist Tom Braden.

A statement was also approved upholding the complaint of Kenneth Rossman against NBC News in its coverage of the President's visit to Huntsville, Alabama, on February 18.

William Rusher, representing the Committee, read a draft statement on the Committee's dismissal of the Mobil Oil Corporation's complaint against ABC. After some discussion, the statement was approved for release.

Mr. Schnurman then discussed the status of other grievances handled by the Committee at its meetings of May 9 and 10. (See Grievance Committee minutes for details).

The Chairman then introduced Professor Benno C. Schmidt, Jr., who outlined for the Council members the main points of his access study.

Mr. Arthur informed the Council that copies of the Council's eight-month report were available to members for distribution.

Mr. Arthur then reported on discussions with Bruce Herschensohn, deputy special assistant to the President, concerning filing specifics to the Council regarding President Nixon's charges of "vicious, outrageous, distorted" reporting by the TV networks. As of the meeting, Mr. Herschensohn had not responded as promised. Mr. Arthur, therefore, read a draft statement citing this second failure by the White House to substantiate its October charge.

A discussion then ensued as to whether such a statement should be released as a sole press release or incorporated in a general release on the Council meeting. The Council moved to issue a general press release, citing this statement and the Mobil Oil decision as major activities of the Council meeting.

Mr. Schnurman then proposed Monday, June 24, as the date for the next Council meeting, with the possibility of a Sunday, June 23,* Grievance/Freedom of the Press meeting. A final decision would be made within the week.

As new business, the Chairman noted the addition of David Rudenstine to the staff as of May 28.

*Following the meeting a notification was sent to Council members verifying the meeting date as June 24 and 25.

Mr. Rudenstine will serve as Counsel to the Council.

The Chairman then introduced Jack Howard, of the Twentieth Century Fund, who discussed the establishment by the Council of the Matthew H. Fox Memorial Fellowships. Copies of the prospectus for the Fellowships were presented to Council members and the Chairman ordered that a copy be filed with the minutes of this meeting. In accepting the prospectus, the Council was offered the following resolution by Loren Ghiglione, which was duly seconded and passed:

RESOLVED, that the National News Council, Inc., authorizes the Twentieth Century Fund to act as its agent in the administration of the Matthew Fox Memorial Fund.

The Chairman appointed Dean McKay to serve as Council representative on the jury set up to select Matthew Fox Memorial Fellowship recipients.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

National Journalism Award

Presented by

Ball State University

to

The National News Council

The National News Council already has taken an important place in American life; its position will become ever more important in the years ahead. It has and will continue to have a vital part in the two-way communication between the American national news media and the American public. No other agency in the United States today is prepared to accept this crucial assignment. This National Journalism Award says, in effect, that the National News Council has had a significant beginning and will have a profound role in the years ahead.

Awarded May 4, 1974

BIGGS, CURTIS, CASSERLY AND BARNES

WILLIAM H. BIGGS
THOMAS B. CURTIS
DAVIS BIGGS
FRANCIS A. CASSERLY
WILLIAM R. BARNES
WARD FICKIE
GEORGE R. WOLF
WILLIAM C. DALE, JR.

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ROBERT T. HENSLEY
1908-1971
CLAYTON OFFICE
135 NORTH MERAMEC

OF COUNSEL
GEORGE C. MACKAY

E. FAIRFAX JONES

May 1, 1974

RECEIVED MAY 3 1974

Mr. William A. Arthur
Executive Director
The National News Council
One Lincoln Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10023

Dear Bill:

It is with great regret that I am submitting my resignation to the National News Council. I have filed for Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate from Missouri for the coming November election. I believe that the public interest of the National News Council would be better served by someone not involved in a current election campaign.

I have enjoyed the association with the other Board members and the staff and am deeply interested in the objective of the Council being attained. I want to be of assistance to the Council and its work in any way I can. I will follow its course with great interest.

Please extend my good wishes to all the Board members and the staff.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Curtis

TBC/jh

Matthew Fox Memorial Fellowship

SPONSORSHIP

The Matthew Fox Memorial Fellowships are sponsored by the staff of the Twentieth Century Fund in memory of a young staff member whose energy and imagination provided a bright and warm presence at the Fund for a few short years before his sudden death in 1973. Among Matthew Fox's special interests was the National News Council, on which he worked as the Fund's representative with the independent Twentieth Century Fund Task Force which recommended the establishment of a national council, and with the founding committee that set up the council and named its members. Unfortunately, Matthew Fox died before the Council was officially launched as an independent institution.

PROGRAM

The Matthew Fox Fellowships are designed to provide support for the National News Council. They will give support to selected young persons for work with the National News Council, either as summer interns or as part-time fellows during the school year. For the most part, Matthew Fox Fellows will be advanced students in journalism or law, with a special interest in communications and the First Amendment, and with the desire and the competence either to perform substantive research on behalf of the Council, or to engage in the substantive operations of the Council in research or grievances and freedom of the press.

SELECTION OF FELLOWS

The selection jury for Matthew Fox Fellows will be composed of Judge Roger Traynor, first chairman of the Council and its current senior advisor; Norman Isaacs, a distinguished journalist and associate dean at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism who has been a pioneer in the

field of press responsibility; M. J. Rossant, director of the Twentieth Century Fund; Merlyn S. Pitzele, Matthew Fox's stepfather, who brings a special awareness of the qualities the Fellowships seek to honor and to encourage; and a National News Council member to be designated by the Council.

The Jury shall review nominations submitted jointly by staff members of the National News Council and the Twentieth Century Fund, who shall have the responsibility of screening candidates. The Jury shall have the right to conduct its own interviews of candidates and may, if it so decides, request further nominations from the Council and Fund staffs.

ADMINISTRATION

Matthew Fox Fellows shall work under the supervision and direction of the National News Council and shall be employees or consultants to the Council. The Fellowship Fund, which is supported by the family and friends of Matthew Fox, shall be administered by the Twentieth Century Fund as agent for the Council. The Twentieth Century Fund assumes the responsibility for seeking augmentation of the Fellowship Fund from time to time, as required.

Information about the Matthew Fox Fellowship program shall be developed jointly by the Council and the Fund and shall be disseminated in schools of journalism, law schools and elsewhere as deemed appropriate. Details of Fellowship periods of service, compensation and other aspects of the program shall be worked out jointly by representatives designated by the Council and the Fund.

INITIAL PROGRAM

The first Matthew Fox Fellow shall be designated for the summer of 1974. Among other assignments he will work directly with the special Counsel to the National News Council retained for development of Council

procedures and standards for conduct of hearings. Selection of the first Matthew Fox Fellow shall be made by the Council staff and concurred in by the Fund, and ratified by the Selection Jury. Announcement of the Fellowship program shall be made this spring.

Guidelines for future Matthew Fox Fellowships shall be developed as outlined above, and may consist of summer interns or school-year part-time Fellows. Development of such guidelines shall be scheduled so that dissemination of information about the program may begin this fall with possible Fellowship assignments commencing with the spring semester of 1975.

May 10, 1974