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Roger J. Traynor's Resignation as Chairman of the National News Council

The National News Council, Inc.

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2 January 1974

Revised Draft---Press Release re Chairmanship of News Council

Justice Roger J. Traynor, who has served as chairman of the National News Council since its inception in April 1973, announced today that the Council has made sturdy progress in its pioneering months. It has established lines of communication with media associations and other groups interested in media problems. It is moving toward completion of a study on the question of access to the media, headed by Professor Benno C. Schmidt of Columbia University Law School. It is developing long-range procedures for dealing with grievances. It is also examining the President's criticism of news presentations by the three commercial television networks, which he characterized as "outrageous, vicious, and distorted" at his news conference of October 26, 1973.

Justice Traynor also announced that though he will be relinquishing his post as chairman sometime before fall, to accept the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professorship of Legal Science at Cambridge University, England, for the academic year 1974-75, he will continue to serve the National News Council in an advisory capacity. In his view "The Council is an idea whose time has come."

The Twentieth Century Fund Task Force, which recommended formation of the National News Council on an experimental basis for three years, selected Justice Traynor as the Council's chairman because of his reputation for the quality and care of his work during his long tenure as Associate Justice, and then Chief Justice, of the Supreme Court of California. The Council is committed to proceeding in the same painstaking way as it carries out the mandates of its charter. In the process, it should quicken both media and public to their respective responsibilities as governed citizens to watch closely the terms of their governance.

Concluding paragraph (if no successor chairman yet appointed)

The Council takes pride that Justice Traynor will continue to serve as chairman pending the appointment of a successor.

Alternative

Concluding paragraph (if a successor chairman has been appointed)

The Council takes pride that Justice Traynor will continue to serve as an adviser to the Council. The Council and Justice Traynor join to welcome _____ as the new Chairman.

(Biographical data about the new chairman.)

The headquarters of the National News Council and its chairman are at

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