Correspondence Between Alfred Balk and Roger J. Traynor In Regards To the National News Council's Membership Recruitment, 1972 December 19 - 1972 December 27

Roger J. Traynor
The National News Council, Inc.

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Judge Roger J. Traynor
Hastings College of the Law
University of California
198 McAllister Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

Dear Judge Traynor:

Norman Isaacs and I will be happy, of course, to "consider a recruitment list in some detail and keep Murray posted," as suggested in your letter of December 19.

However, the last that either of us has heard about recruitment was at the final Task Force dinner on November 30. At that time both of us pleaded for a change in modus operandi to encompass a phone canvass of thirty to fifty knowledgeable people throughout the U.S. Only if that is done, we feel, can the Founding Committee transcend the hazards of inbreeding of ideas from one another.

My best for a happy and productive New Year.

Cordially,

Alfred Balk
Editor

AB:jb
cc: N. Isaacs
December 11, 1972

Justice Roger Traynor

Dear Judge Traynor:

Congratulations again on the splendid progress your Working Committee on the Press Council seems to be making.

Many advocates of the Press Council idea believe that the most critical step is just ahead - selection of Council members. Norman Isaacs, a former president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, is one of these (copy of his letter to Murray Rossant is enclosed). I am another.

I do hope that the Working Committee has cast a dragnet to knowledgeable people around the country to seek nominations and that a representative "blue ribbon" panel is in the making.

If I can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Alfred Balk
Editor

AB:jb
December 19, 1972

Professor Alfred Balk  
Editor, Columbia Journalism Review  
Graduate School of Journalism  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
New York, N.Y. 10027

Dear Professor Balk:

I very much appreciate your letter of 11 December  
together with the copy of Mr. Isaacs' letter of 7 December to Murray Rossant.

I agree with you wholeheartedly that the Founding Committee  
of the National News Council, as it is now to be called, should  
aim high in recruiting its members. Moreover, I believe the  
project is one that will appeal to people of high caliber, for  
in its own freedom from external pressures of any sort it can  
exemplify the very independence and responsibility it is entrusted  
to foster.

I happily accept your offer of assistance. Perhaps you  
and Mr. Isaacs can consider a recruitment list in some detail and  
keep Murray posted.

Sincerely yours,

Roger J. Traynor