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Murray J. Rossant's Letter to Roger J. Traynor Regarding Paul Freund Involvement in the National News Council

Murray J. Rossant

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December 6, 1972

Chief Justice Roger Traynor
Hastings College of Law
University of California
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Roger:

I was pleased to hear about Paul Freund from you on Monday. We will be sending out material on the council to him today.

Meanwhile, I am enclosing a fresh draft of the preamble for you to put your hand to. While I do not like rhetorical flourishes, I think that the public relations aspect of the council's launching calls for some.

Under separate cover I am sending you the revised copies of the Certificate of Incorporation, By-Laws and Rules of Procedure Relating to Public Complaints. Bill Cary and Pat Persons promise to have the revised procedures for media complaints in a day or two.

We have been flooded by job applications and comments, mostly favorable, about the council. But I thought you would be most interested in a saucy if dinosaur-like reaction from the New York Daily News, which I also enclose.

I hope that you did not find our meetings or your trip too tiring. Once we have a staff director, I think that a good deal of the work load can be removed from your shoulders. We are working on finding suitable candidates, but I am not sure that we will have one available until the new year.

One other thing. Lou Cowan feels that the best approach to Norman Strouse would be a letter from you. I do not know whether you agree, but his address is P. O. Box [redacted], [redacted], [redacted]. If you wish we could prepare a draft of a letter or I could write on behalf of the working committee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

M. J. Rossant

P.S. I've also attached the clipping from the New York Times.
Professor Paul Freund
School of Law
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

December 6, 1972

Professor Paul Freund
School of Law
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Professor Freund:

I was delighted to hear from Roger Traynor that you will consider joining
the National News Council as a public member. The entire founding com-
mittee, which is made up of selected members of the Fund’s Task Force that
proposed the council and representatives of foundations which will be funding
it, are in agreement with Roger and myself in thinking that your membership
would be most valuable to this important experiment.

Under separate cover, I am sending you some background material about the
council. It includes the report of the Task Force and a background paper
on councils by Alfred Balk, who was rapporteur for the group. In addition,
the certificate of incorporation for the council as well as its by-laws and
proposed rules of procedure, which were worked on by William Cary and gone
over by Roger Traynor, are now available. As you will see, the Task Force
report was the basis for the council but the working committee, under Roger’s
guidance, has made some significant modifications.

All of us would welcome your comments on the documentation. Even I hope
that we can persuade you to accept election to the council. It would be
most helpful if we could count on both you and Roger in the formative stages,
when the prospects for the emergence of the council as a significant new
institution serving the public interest will have to be implemented.

It is too early to say much about the probably workload of Council members.
I assume, however, that it will involve one or two days a month, plus con-
siderable reading. The founding committee has decided that the council’s
headquarters will be in New York City, at least in its first years, and that
it will be supported by a permanent staff which will be responsible for
carrying out investigations and conducting research studies.
I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the council and your participation on it. I am hopeful that you will agree to serve, and I have no doubt that your service, like Roger's, would enhance enormously the chances of the council's success.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

M. J. Rossant

cc: Roger Traynor