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Correspondence Between Roger J. Traynor,
Professor Maurice Rosenberg, and Murray J.
Rossant In Regards to The Twentieth Century
Fund's Task Force Report and News Media
Standards, 1972 October 6 - 1972 October 17

Roger J. Traynor

Maurice Rosenberg

Murray J. Rossant

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October 6, 1972

Hon. Roger Traynor
Hastings College of Law
198 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Roger:

To my delight, our paths are converging a bit in still another area of this busy life. Mr. Rossant of The Twentieth Century Fund tells me that you are chairman of a committee that (if I rightly understand the mission) is to be a charter-writing or founding committee for a national press council that will include the news media, print and electronic, and that will seek to develop operating standards or guidelines or pass upon complaints of instances of irresponsible news coverage, or such matters. I do not pretend to be very clear in my understanding of your committee's aims because I have seen nothing in writing about them; but Mr. Rossant said he would make available The Twentieth Century Fund's Task Force Report to me after it has been edited.

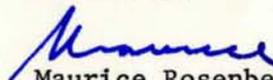
My connection with this subject stems from my membership on the Executive Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and my chairmanship of a Subcommittee on News Media Standards. During the course of scratching about for some constructive pathways into this thorny thicket, a member of the Subcommittee learned of The Twentieth Century Fund's Task Force Report. That in turn lead me to you via Mr. Rossant.

The Executive Committee believes it would be a very fine thing if its Subcommittee could work along with your group. I, of course, find the prospect very happy. Can you kindly give me an indication of what your committee plans to do, what timetable you have set, whether a group like ours (New York lawyers of the type you know from your City Bar Association contacts) could be helpful, and so on?

I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope that Madeline and you are enjoying California again and very, very good health.

Sincerely,


Maurice Rosenberg

MR:dw
cc: Mr. M.J. Rossant

The Twentieth Century Fund

41 East 70th Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

(212) 535-4441

M. J. Rossant, *Director*

October 12th

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Mr. Maurice Rosenberg
Columbia University in the City of New York
435 West 116th Street
New York, New York 10027

Dear Professor Rosenberg:

I am enclosing a copy of the report made by an independent Task Force established by the Twentieth Century Fund. It calls for the establishment of a national press -- or media -- council to serve as a protector of press freedom and as an impartial body to hear complaints from the public concerning the accuracy and fairness of the media.

While the report is not yet in final edited form, it contains all the elements agreed upon by the Task Force. It is the basis of the council plan that is now being put into final shape by a committee made up of some members of the Task Force, some foundation executives representing the funding consortium and Justice Traynor.

I would welcome your comments on the report and would be pleased to relay them to the working committee. And perhaps we can make common cause in some way.

Sincerely,

M. J. Rossant

cc: Hon. Roger Traynor
/j
enc.

October 17, 1972.

Professor Maurice Rosenberg
Columbia University in the City
of New York
School of Law
435 West 116th Street
New York, N. Y. 10027

Dear Maurice:

It is with pleasure that I read your letter of the 6th of October, signalling the interest of your Subcommittee on News Media Standards, under the aegis of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, in the Twentieth Century Fund project in a related field.

I agree with you that there should be many areas of common concern to the explorers from each venture, where they can share particular perspectives the better to perceive the trees in the mystifying forest. Meanwhile, you may find in the Task Force Report of the Fund at least preliminary answers to your inquiry as to how the Fund will be charting its course. I am very glad that Murray Rossant will be sending the Report along to you once it is edited.

Perhaps the Report will also afford useful clues as to how your own Subcommittee can best define its related objectives to make optimum use of its valuable professional skills. In confrontations with forests, the skillful cannot do less than their best.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Roger J. Traynor

RJT:df
cc Mr. M. J. Rossant